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**Shocking developments:
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huge upsets in first round**

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\$1.00

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Writer sells 'ice' from \$9,800 martini and gives proceeds to families of war wounded

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Photo courtesy of Algonquin Hotel

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Nightclub fire: A California judge has dismissed a \$10 million slander lawsuit filed against a former publicist for the rock band Great White, whose pyrotechnics caused The Station nightclub fire in Rhode Island.

Great White's lead singer, Jack Russell, had sued the publicist, Charrie Foglio, for saying he and the band's manager embezzled money raised during a benefit concert tour for those affected by the deadly blaze. Russell alleged Foglio made the statements after she was fired as the band's publicist and was refused a severance payment.

Truck bodies case: The driver of a tractor-trailer in the nation's deadliest smuggling attempt was an inexperienced pawn of a smuggling ring who didn't know 17 immigrants were dying in the airless truck, the defense said in closing arguments.

Tyrone Williams' lawyer said Friday that his client didn't speak Spanish and couldn't hear the immigrants banging on the walls to get out.

The immigrants died after succumbing to the heat in the sweltering trailer, which was packed with more than 70 people. Two others died later.

Michael Jackson trial: Michael Jackson's lawyers will be allowed to question witnesses about allegations that the boy accusing the singer of molestation once claimed comedian George Lopez stole \$300 from his wallet.

Defense attorneys have tried to raise the matter during Jackson's trial, but have been blocked by objections that Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville has upheld. After reviewing reports about the incident, Melville said Friday he would allow questions about it.

Jackson

Stepfather rape: An Ohio woman whose stepfather was convicted of impregnating her with a syringe was awarded more than \$4.3 million in damages Friday.

A Summit County, Ohio, jury ruled that John Goff, 43, is liable for more than \$3.3 million in compensatory damages and \$750,000 in punitive damages. Goff is serving a 20-year prison sentence after being convicted in 2002 of rape, sexual battery and child endangerment.

The jury also ordered Akron (Ohio) City Hospital to pay \$224,000 in damages to Shenna Grimm, 22, of Kent.

Nuclear lab management: Members of Congress on Friday again criticized the University of California for its management of Los Alamos National Laboratory, saying the university should bear at least some of the financial burden of a recent lengthy shutdown at the UC-run nuclear weapons facility.

Los Alamos was the main focus of a hearing on security at the nation's nuclear sites, held Friday by the investigations panel of



West Bank settlements: An injured Palestinian is carried after he was shot with a rubber bullet by Israeli border police. The incident happened when clashes erupted during a protest against the construction of a section of Israel's separation barrier in the outskirts of the West Bank village of Bil'in on Friday. The army is barring Israeli citizens from moving to four West Bank settlements slated for evacuation later this year, military officials said Saturday, following a similar ban on relocating to the Gaza Strip. The plan, scheduled to begin in late July, would uproot roughly 9,000 Jewish settlers from their homes.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee. UC has managed the New Mexico law for the Energy Department for more than six decades.

Farmers' market crash: A judge Friday refused to dismiss manslaughter charges against an 88-year-old man whose car barreled through a farmers' market in Santa Monica, Calif., killing 10 people and injuring 63.

Lawyers for George Russell Weller had argued that he was not grossly negligent, but simply panicked when he stepped on the gas instead of the brake, traveling nearly 1,000 feet through the pedestrian market at up to 60 mph.

Bush book lawsuit: A freelance writer has asked a court to dismiss his \$5 million lawsuit accusing author Kitty Kelley of plagiarism in her best-selling book about President Bush and his family.

Glynn Wilson said Friday that he decided to drop the suit, filed in November, because he feared that U.S. District Judge U.W. Clemon was about to rule that copyright law didn't cover his story on the Internet about Bush's days in Alabama when he was in the National Guard in the early 1970s.

Such a ruling by Clemon would erode the legal protections that cover Web-based writers, Wilson said.

Clinton's pardons: The Bush administration blacked out almost all the information in hundreds of documents before releasing them to a conservative organization looking into President Clinton's controversial pardons four years ago on his last day in office.

The only items not deleted from the material are the names of the person who wrote the document and the person it was sent to.

The government accountability group Ju-

dicial Watch said Friday that it received the Justice Department documents following a court battle that featured a Republican administration fighting to keep secret documents generated by its Democratic predecessor.

Business

WorldCom scandal: Eleven former board members of WorldCom Inc. have agreed to pay \$20.25 million of their own money to settle a lawsuit by former investors in the company, New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi said Friday.

The deal follows a federal judge's preliminary approval of another plan under which JPMorgan Chase & Co. will pay \$2 billion to settle a class-action lawsuit brought by former WorldCom investors.

World

Recovering pope: Pope John Paul II's doctors are optimistic about his health, an Italian cardinal who is a top Vatican official was quoted as saying Saturday.

"The Holy Father is hanging in there, hanging in there," Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re told journalists on the sidelines of a ceremony at a Catholic university, the Italian news agency ANSA reported from the southern Italian city of Campobasso.

"The doctors above all are optimistic and this is a beautiful thing, a good sign," Re was quoted as saying.

Stories and photos from wire services



Pope John Paul II

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Schweinfurt student aces spelling bee

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — When he was in the fourth grade, Calvin Lau placed fourth in the annual European spelling bee. And so he assumed he would return the following year a bit wiser on the words.

That was four years ago, and Calvin didn't get another crack at winning it all until Saturday, when he bested 42 other contestants to win the 23rd annual European PTA Spelling Bee.

"I thought I could make it," Calvin said after the bee. "This time my dad was telling me to stay confident."

The Schweinfurt Middle School student won when Alexis Claffin of Würzburg, Middle School misspelled the word "obstetrician" and Calvin correctly recited the letters for "appellate."

The win came in the 14th round, which started with just Calvin and Alexis remaining.

For winning the bee, Calvin gets to

Calvin Lau will represent U.S. military's Europe community at competition in D.C.

represent the U.S. military community in Europe in the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., May 31 through June 2. He also received a \$100 savings bond and a \$25 gift certificate from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

"It feels incredible," Calvin said of his victory. "This morning, I was praying to God for divine guidance."

When Calvin finished fourth in 2001 as a fourth-grader, he figured he would return to the bee the next year. But he lost in his own school's spelling bee the following year and Schweinfurt Middle School didn't take part in the European bee in 2003 and 2004.

This year's annual spelling bee, hosted by the European Parent-Teachers Association, was held at Kaiserslautern

High School. In all, 45 students between the third and eighth grades qualified for the bee, although two contestants didn't show.

By the end of the fourth round, more than half of the students were sitting in the audience, having missed the word given to them by moderator Alice Owen. The last 30 minutes moved quickly as the final eight began to drop out in fairly rapid succession.

"I didn't think I would get that far," Alexis said of her second-place finish.

Calvin said his strategy was fairly simple: He repeatedly asked Owen for definitions and to use the word in a sentence, as permitted by the rules.

He also studied like a fiend on the drive to Kaiserslautern.

Said Calvin: "I just wanted to be careful."

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KEVIN DOUGHERTY/Stars and Stripes

Thirteen-year-old Calvin Lau, an eighth-grader at Schweinfurt Middle School in Germany, won the 23rd annual European PTA Spelling Bee Final on Saturday.

21st TSC troops deploy to Afghanistan

BY STEVE MRAZ

Stars and Stripes

When their boots hit combat soil, they'll find themselves in an ancient, war-damaged nation in places such as Bagram, Kandahar and Kabul.

And they won't be returning for a year.

Roughly 170 soldiers under the umbrella of the 21st Theater Support Command loaded onto a commercial jet at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Saturday afternoon and departed for a yearlong Afghanistan deployment.

Their mission: To provide logistical support and force protection for all U.S.-friendly forces in Afghanistan.

Soldiers heading out Saturday represented the 330th Rear Operations Center and the 29th Support Group Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Those elements are part of the 21st TSC, which by July will have deployed about 1,100 troops to Afghanistan for its joint logistics command mission.

While waiting to depart Saturday, several troops said they were excited and ready to go. Troops used the long wait to catch up, fiddle with their iPods and get in a few games on a Sony PlayStation.

Also with the group Saturday were 54 soldiers with the 208th Infantry Battalion under the command of Lt. Col. Kathryn Hall. The unit "brings the cash to the battlefield" to pay soldiers and contractors, Hall said.

"[The 208th soldiers] have certainly earned their place on this team," she said.

All the troops will fly to Kyrgyzstan from there will de-



PHOTOS BY STEVE MRAZ/Stars and Stripes

Above: Soldiers with the 21st Theater Support Command load onto a commercial airliner Saturday at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to depart for a yearlong Afghanistan deployment. Below right: Staff Sgt. Christopher Valdez joins about 170 21st TSC soldiers leaving Saturday.

part to several locations in Afghanistan.



Walker

troops in vehicle maintenance.

"It's almost like I'm with family

and soldiers at the same time," she said. "I know their capabilities, and they know my capabilities."

After looking into the eyes of his soldiers, Col. Walter J. Sawyer, commander of the 29th Support Group, knew his troops were ready for their Afghanistan deployment.

"What they are getting ready to do is not only important to the guy or gal next to them but to the entire mission," he said.

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Memorial for retiree

A memorial service will be held noon Tuesday at the base chapel in Landstuhl, Germany, for a retired airman who became an advocate for retirees and their families in Europe.

Paul Hacker, 70 and a retired chief master sergeant, died Feb. 28 of what medical officials believe was a heart ailment. He was driving his car on Ramstein Air Base, Germany, just before he died.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the American Heart Association.

'Dollar Days' in store

Commissaries throughout Europe will roll out a new promotion campaign later this month that will offer multiple items for a buck.

The stores have dubbed the sales event "Dollar Days." Products throughout the store will feature dollar pricing much like the popular dollar stores in the United States.

The event runs from March 31 to April 13, said Gerri Young, spokeswoman for the Defense Commissary Agency in Europe. A second Dollar Days event is scheduled for Aug. 11-24.

Commissaries in the United States and Far East also will participate in the promotion.

"Customers might see two-for-a-dollar deals, or even unusual deals such as three items for two dollars," Patrick B. Nixon, chief executive officer and acting director of the Defense Commissary, said in a press release.

Customers should look for the "Extra Savings" signs in stores to find the Dollar Days bargains.

If the promotion is popular, commissary officials said similar ones could be held in the future.

From staff reports

Army tightens focus on budget priorities

While waiting on supplemental money, USAREUR to trim nonessential spending

BY STEVE MRAZ

Stars and Stripes

While U.S. Army Europe's roughly \$2 billion annual budget has not been decreased as a result of the global war on terrorism, Army officials in Europe say they have been asked by the Department of the Army to watch spending during the next two months.

The tone of that message was not that the Army was facing a budget crisis, but rather to make sure budget officials focused on priorities, said Gary Marlar, USAREUR's budget officer.

Earlier this month, Army Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper ordered Air Force commanders to cut spending and delay programs considered a lower priority than the war.

The military expects funding in May from the White House-requested \$82 billion supplemental spending bill. About \$75 billion of that is for defense-related expenditures.

In the meantime, USAREUR has prioritized its funding to ensure soldiers and units are adequately equipped and trained for combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, Marlar said. Also of priority are quality-of-life programs for soldiers and their families, but funding those priorities has not come without consequences, he said.

"To ensure we can most efficiently and effectively support these priorities, we have implemented several initiatives to reduce, defer or eliminate non-essential expenditures where possible," Marlar said in a written statement.

"To date, we have not ... canceled specific projects or programs. In addition to the normal review of day-to-day operations such as travel, overtime, etc., we are reviewing theater maintenance operations to ensure that we continue to perform predeployment and reconstitution maintenance in the most efficient, cost-effective manner."

Other measures the Army is taking include:

■ Reminding commanders not to acquire or ship

equipment their units will receive upon arrival in theater;

■ Scrutinizing contractual actions to ensure they are essential to current operations and to determine which can be deferred or canceled with minimal risk;

■ Analyzing support requirements in the Balkans to ensure logistical support is being accomplished in the most efficient, cost-effective manner possible.

To date, USAREUR has received about half of its annual \$1 billion budget. An estimated \$150 million in regular budget money will come its way at the end of the month. USAREUR will have to make do with that amount until supplemental funding arrives, Marlar said.

Officials at the Army's Installation Management Agency-Europe do not believe the agency's essential services are in danger as a result of "near term cash challenges" brought on by the cost of the global war on terrorism, according to a written statement by Kim Walz, chief of public affairs for IMA-E.

Walz said some IMA-E actions have been scaled back. In the near term, IMA-E cannot conduct actions other than those absolutely necessary, the statement read.

But when asked for specifics, another IMA-E official was unable to provide examples of services that have been affected. In fact, according to an e-mail from Millie Waters, an IMA-E spokeswoman, the agency has "not scaled back any services."

In the end, the Army will take care of its soldiers and families, Walz said.

"As soon as the supplemental is passed by Congress, we expect to be back to full business in all our functional areas," according to her statement.

"The Army, USAREUR and IMA leadership are all committed to support the well-being of our force and our installations."

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Air Force facing massive shortfalls

U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials could not provide details on how individual bases throughout the region would make adjustments due to service-wide budget cuts ordered by the Air Force chief of staff.

Maj. Patrick Ryder, a spokesman for the headquarters command based at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, said Friday that a final decision on what types of areas would be cut is still pending.

Earlier this month, Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper ordered the major commands to make the necessary cuts to avoid a "budget crisis." The Air Force is facing a \$3 billion shortfall in maintenance and operation and will be \$733 million short in military personnel funding by the end of the fiscal year, he told commanders in a March 1 message.

Air Force officials have attributed the debt to spending on the war on terrorism and the war in Iraq.

Commands have been told to "count every dollar, and prioritize all spending," according to Jane Hampton, an Air Force spokeswoman at the Pentagon. Flying operations, required maintenance and all "war-related activities" are top priorities and will not be affected by the budget reduction.

Areas that could be cut include travel, administration functions, non-deployment related training and new contracts, Hampton said.

No budget crisis for Department of Navy

While the nation's war on terrorism has the Air Force cutting programs to avoid a budget crisis, no such edict has come from the Navy, officials said.

The Navy described its budget shortfall as "marginal."

The service is depending on Congress to dole out additional dollars beyond the Pentagon's regular budget to pay for the war and tear on Navy assets and cost of the war, particularly for costs incurred with the high operational tempo of the Marine Corps.

"In the current fiscal year, we are having to 'cash-flow' a large portion of the costs of war, but are planning on the U.S. Congress to approve the [fiscal year] 2005 supplemental requested by the president," Navy spokeswoman Lt. Pamela said.

Of the White House's \$82 billion fiscal 2005 emergency supplemental request now before Congress, less than one-third — about \$25 billion — is earmarked for the Department of the Navy, comprised of the Navy and Marine Corps. And of that \$25 billion, \$20 billion would go to the Marine Corps, according to Navy budget documents.

In its early stages, the war took a chunk out of Navy budgets, and to compensate officials trimmed Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. Today, the budgetary picture is much different, officials in Europe said. They were unable to provide detailed information by deadline, but said they were working on a comprehensive view of the financial impact on naval facilities.

— Stars and Stripes

Maximum age raised for Army reserves recruits

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Battling recruiting and retention shortfalls among its part-time soldiers, the Army is launching a new experimental policy approving the acceptance of not-so-young recruits into the ranks of the Army National Guard and Reserve.

Dubbed a three-year "test," the new policy will bump up the maximum age for new enlistments from 34 years to 39 years, according to an Army announcement.

The policy applies to both men and women joining the military for the first time. The older recruits will be eligible for the same enlistment bonuses and other incentives as younger volunteers, according to the announcement. Those with prior service experience interested in reserves duty remain under existing rules.

"The program will evaluate the feasibility of a permanent change to Army Reserve Component enlistment policy," reads the announcement. The test program begins

3-year 'test' program meant to make up for difficulties in enticing new GI enlistments

immediately and will run through September 30, 2008. Set by law, the maximum age for active-duty recruits will remain at less than 35 years old.

The move comes as reserve recruiters are struggling to convince potential recruits to join even as unit leaders are failing to convince enough troops to stay in uniform beyond initial contracts. Hundreds of thousands of part-time citizen soldiers have found themselves facing full-time duty in the combat zones, mostly under two-year mobilization orders. Of the more than 412,000 Guard and Reserve troops who have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 63,000 have been mobilized twice, according to Pentagon figures.

Nearly half of the forces now in the Middle East and Central Asia come from the reserve components, noted Charles S. Ahell,

the Pentagon's top personnel officer, in prepared remarks delivered before lawmakers March 16.

With that as backdrop, he wrote, "This will be a very challenging year for recruiting for the reserve components particularly in the Army National Guard and Reserve," which have born the vast majority of combat deployments among reserve forces. Both the Army Guard and Reserve, he wrote "are at high risk of falling short of their recruiting objectives."

To help stem the tide, the Army National Guard is increasing its recruiting force by more than 25 percent, adding 1,400 new recruiters. Meanwhile, the Army Reserve is nearly doubling its recruiting ranks with 734 new recruiters.

The Army's new policy should help their efforts.

"Raising the maximum age for non-prior service enlistment expands the recruiting pool, provides motivated individuals an opportunity to serve, and strengthens the readiness of Reserve units," according to the Army statement announcing the new policy.

Applicants must meet the same eligibility standards, to include passing the same physical standards and medical examination.

"Experience has shown that older recruits who can meet the physical demands of military service generally make excellent Soldiers based on their maturity, motivation, loyalty, and patriotism," reads the announcement.

It's too early to say how much the new policy will help recruiters, but officials are hopeful.

"The impact of the measure on meeting enlistment goals has not been forecast, but it is expected to contribute to the Army's efforts to recruit top-quality individuals," according to the announcement.

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Good deed is a 'different kind of hangover'

Writer sells diamond from \$9,800 martini, donates proceeds to the Walter Reed Society

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — John Ridley doesn't see anything wrong with paying \$9,800 for a martini he didn't particularly like.

"You hear about it, and it's so insane that you have to try it," he said. "Some people jump out of a plane for an adventure; I bought an expensive drink."

But his real explanation is that sometimes writers do crazy things for a good story. Ridley, who penned the big screen hits "Three Kings" and "U-Turn," chronicled his humorous \$490-per-sip experience for National Public Radio last month.

It's the ice, not the drink, that's expensive. At the Algonquin Hotel in New York, each of the special-ordered martinis contains a several-carat diamond submerged in the vodka, and requires the drinker to meet with a jeweler a day in advance to discuss the cut and clarity of the stone.

So far, only two of the Algonquin's diamond-laden drinks have been ordered. The first, purchased in December, was gifted by a New York man to propose to his girlfriend (He spent \$13,000; she said yes).

Ridley's high-society stunt had a different but still noble cause. He sold his



JEFFREY KATZ/NPR

A close-up view of the 1.5-carat diamond that came with John Ridley's \$9,800 martini.

1.5-carat diamond and donated the proceeds to the Walter Reed Society, which assists relatives of troops under care at the Army hospital, to bring awareness to the charity.

"When it comes to war, most people get in their heads one of two outcomes: Either the troops will come back to their loved ones, or they'll be killed," he said.

"But it gets out of people's minds the number of people injured. No matter how you feel about the war, you have to think of these soldiers."

The NPR commentator, Ridley said, offered a way to get that message to millions

of listeners.

And it only cost him the price of a small car.

"I didn't tell my wife about it ahead of time," he said, laughing. "I thought once it was all done and they ran the piece, I could explain it to her."

Ridley said she has been very understanding, but has been calling him an idiot. His drink order was a vesper martini — the drink of choice for James Bond in Ian Fleming's spy novels, before Sean Connery replaced the gin and Lillet with vermouth for his onscreen, unstirred cocktail.

That literary angle, the debonair Bond

image and the mystery of a cocktail less-order seemed perfect for the adventure Ridley was seeking.

Instead, it was stronger than he expected — good, but not what he would have preferred.

And the drink was plunked down on the bar unceremoniously, just like any other alcoholic offering.

Worse still, the diamond was nearly thrown out by an overanxious waiter clearing the bar.

That's not exactly the experience one would expect for a drink with a \$9,000-plus markup.

"You could tell the presentation was lacking," he said. "And, clearly, there's nothing in it that makes it taste better. But I did get a nervous thrill as it came to me. You keep thinking, 'Is it worth writing out this check for?'"

"The next day, I kept asking myself if that was the most insane thing I've ever done. It's a different kind of hangover."

Still, the occasion justified the experience in Ridley's mind. He sold the diamond for \$7,000, got another \$1,000 from the hotel, and earmarked the money for the Operation Iraqi Freedom Family Support Fund.

So in the end, his martini and story ended up costing only \$1,800.

"People think I'm a goofball, but it was a fun thing to do," he said. "I'll be out looking for the next thing soon. But I have the feeling for the rest of the year, it's going to be on the cheap."

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.com/dm

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Sequel to the horror flick *The Ring*, Naomi Watts reprises her role as Rachel Keller, who, six months after the events of the first film, moves to Astoria, Ore., with her son, Aidan, to escape their memories of what happened in Seattle. When a few locals start dying, however, and a strange videotape reappears, Rachel becomes aware that the creepy Samara is back and after Aidan.



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Vogelweh	1-7 Apr
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Wuerzburg	1-7 Apr



DOD unveils sex assault reporting policy

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Defense Department announced a new sexual assault reporting policy on Friday that allows victims to notify authorities of the attack and receive medical treatment without automatically triggering an official military investigation.

The DOD's current policy, which requires an official military investigation to begin as soon as a sexual assault is reported by a servicemember, discourages many victims from coming forward, according to David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Many experts believe sexual assault to be "the most under-reported violent crime in the nation and in the military," Chu told Pentagon reporters.

The new policy "is a big change," Chu said, because victims will now have some time to get medical treatment and to learn about legal options before an official investigation kicks off.

Victims will also have more control over the release of his or her personal information, Chu said.

Under restricted reporting, victims will be allowed to discuss details of their attack in confidence with a designated "sexual assault response coordinator," or SARC, or with a health-care provider, who will then notify the base's SARC instead of law enforcement or the base commander.

Victims already have the right to discuss sexual assaults as "privileged communications" with military chaplains, and the policy does not change that protection.



Under Secretary of Defense David Chu, right, Joint Task Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, center, and Inspector General Joseph E. Schmitz hold a press conference at the Pentagon on Friday to deliver the results of the sexual misconduct survey.

Survey: Most academy assaults unreported

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — One female student in seven attending the nation's military academies last spring said she had been sexually assaulted since becoming a cadet or midshipman, according to a report on the first survey of sexual misconduct on the three campuses released Friday by the Defense Department.

More than half the women studying at the Naval, Air Force and Army academies reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment on campus, according to survey responses. But few of those incidents, and only a third of the assaults, were reported to authorities.

The survey, conducted largely in response to allegations of widespread sexual harassment and as-

sault at the Air Force Academy in 2003, suggests a prevailing climate at the academies that worries military leaders. Too many students condone off-color jokes and unwanted sexual advances. Too few dare to confront classmates with their transgressions or to report them to anyone else, the survey shows.

In March and April 2004, the Defense Department surveyed 1,906 women, or nearly all of the 1,971 who attend the three academies, along with a representative sample of 3,107 men.

Among the women surveyed last spring across the three academies, 262 students reported 302 incidents of sexual assault, including 94 instances of alleged rape. About 176 cases involved inappropriate touching and fondling. Men reported 55 sexual assaults. The incidents occurred from 1999 to 2004.

The SARC then will assign a victim advocate, whose job is to accurately describe all of the victim's rights and options, includ-

ing a criminal investigation. The advocate will give victims the sense that "Now I have somebody with me; I'm not in this by

myself," Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, commander of the Joint Task Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, said dur-

ing Friday's press conference.

Unless the victim gives permission for unrestricted reporting of his or her case, the SARC, medical provider and victim advocate will be forbidden from discussing any oral, written or electronic communications with that person with command authorities or military or civilian law enforcement officials.

The SARC is obligated to report the general outlines of the case to command authorities within 24 hours of the incident, as long as the report omits any information that "could reasonably lead to personal identification," according to the memorandum.

That requirement will ensure that commanders will have "a more realistic assessment of what's actually happening in their jurisdictions," because they will receive information on events that were previously going unreported, Chu said.

Undersecretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz signed the memorandum that created the changes March 16.

But the policy does not become effective for another 90 days, to give time to train all DOD personnel in the new policy, as well as training for commanders, health personnel and other key participants in sexual assault response, Chu said.

"It's going to take quite some time for this," Chu said.

The new policy complies with a requirement in the 2004 defense budget authorization that contained a clause requiring the Pentagon address the confidential reporting of sexual assault.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at lburgess@starsandstripes.com or call 703/697-6100.

Stars and Stripes

U.S. Army Europe maintenance and supply units were recognized last week for excellence at the unit and organizational level.

At the Tuesday awards ceremony in Heidelberg, Germany, Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, called logisticians "the heroes on the battlefield" and praised maintenance and supply soldiers for their "selfless service."

Established in 1982, the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence was designed to improve and sustain unit maintenance readiness; to evaluate the status of total unit maintenance operations; to recognize outstanding unit level accomplishments and initiatives; and to promote competition at the major command,

Army and Defense Department levels.

The Army Supply Excellence Program recognizes supply excellence at the unit and organizational level.

On the maintenance side, the winners were:

- Large Table of Organization and Equipment/Modification Table of Organization and Equipment: 95th Military Police Battalion, 37th Transportation Command, 21st Theater Support Command;

- Large Table of Distribution and Allowance: Maintenance Activity Kaiserslautern, General Support Center-Europe, 21st Theater Support Command;

- Medium TOE/MTOE: Company C, 17th Signal Battalion, 22nd Signal Brigade, V Corps;

- Medium TDA: Maintenance Activity Pirmasens, General Support Center-Europe,

21st Theater Support Command;

- Small TOE/MTOE: Battery E, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, V Corps;

- Small TDA: Equipment Storage Site (Expendable), 7th Army Reserve Command.

On the supply side, the winners were:

- Large Supply Support Activity: Supply Support Activity, 5th Maintenance Company, 191st Ordnance Battalion, 29th Support Group, 21st TSC;

- Small Supply Support Activity: Supply Support Activity, 147th Maintenance Company, 71st Corps Support Battalion, 7th Corps Support Group, 3rd Corps Support Command, V Corps;

- Small TDA: Maintenance Activity Mannheim, General Support Center-Europe, 21st TSC;

- TOE battalion category: 421st Medical Battalion, 30th Medical Group;

- TOE company category: 51st Transportation Company, 181st Transportation Battalion, 16th Corps Support Group, 3rd Corps Support Command, V Corps;

Agency-Europe winners for supply are:

- Large Supply Support Activity: Supply Support Activity, 22nd Area Support Group;

- Small Supply Support Activity: Supply Support Activity, 8th ASG;

- Property Book: Property Book, 222nd Base Support Battalion, 104th ASG;

- Small TDA: Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 98th ASG;

- TOE company: Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 6th ASG.

Credit Union donates to tsunami effort

Service Credit Union recently sent \$127,632 to help relief efforts associated with the 2004 tsunami that struck southeast Asia.

The credit union matched the \$63,816 donated by its members and non-members between mid-January and Feb. 28. The total was given to AmeriCares, a non-profit disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization.

The individual donations were collected at Service Credit Union's 13 branches in Germany.

"This could not have been made possible without the generosity of our members and the non-members," said Natasha Blake, senior administrative assistant with the credit union.

USAFE 'network defenders' take award

The "network defenders" of U.S. Air Forces in Europe Communications and Information Directorate have been recognized as the best in information assurance.


The Pentagon recently honored the directorate for keep-

ing computer and information networks safe and for superior support to the region.

The Department of Defense Information Assurance Award honors commands that provide exceptional support to "integrated information assurance, situational awareness and command and control." The assistant secretary of defense for networks and information integration issues the award.

Also, the USAFE Network Operations and Security Center at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, was recognized for integrating alert, warning and response capabilities.

From staff reports



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Iraqi policeman killed, his funeral bombed

By EDWARD HARRIS
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Attackers gunned down a police officer Saturday in Kirkuk, then bombed a funeral procession carrying his corpse, killing three other policemen and wounding two, officials said.

The attackers sprayed automatic-weapons fire from a vehicle, killing the policeman as he made his way to the station house early Saturday, police Capt. Ahmed Shahrani said. Hours later, a roadside bomb hit mourners and security forces transporting the corpse for burial.

"This is a criminal act. The mourners were doing a religious duty. I don't understand how someone could blast a funeral," wailed Allaa Talaban, sister of one of the officers killed in the blast in Kirkuk, an oil-rich city 180 miles north of Baghdad.

Assaults in Baghdad also killed police Commissioner Ahmed Ali Kadim as he traveled to his office in the Doura neighborhood of the capital, said Falah

Al-Mohammadi, an investigator in the precinct.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, a series of blasts sent smoke up from the banks of the Tigris River, a few yards outside the heavily fortified Green Zone. Cobra attack helicopters flashed overhead.

A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb, targeting a U.S. military patrol on a highway northwest of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad in the restive region known as the Sunni Triangle, Iraqi police Sgt. Laith Ismael said.

The car bomb "detonated prematurely, before it could reach the patrol," the U.S. military said in a statement. No casualties were reported.

Iraqis kept up protests Saturday against a Jordanian man they believe carried out a suicide bombing that killed 125 people in Hillah on Feb. 28. "No, no to terrorism," chanted about 200 people in Baquba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

The Jordanian daily Al-Ghad had reported that the man, Raed Mansour al-Banna, carried out the

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, at least 1,519 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,155 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the

Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,381 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,049 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Friday in small arms fire while on patrol in northeast Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

attack, the single deadliest of the Iraqi insurgency. The paper later issued a correction, however, saying it was not known where in Iraq al-Banna carried out an assault.

Al-Banna's family has denied his involvement in the Hillah attack, saying he was killed while carrying out a suicide bombing in Mosul.

More than 2,000 Shiite demon-

strators marched through Baghdad on Friday, raising the Iraqi flag over Jordan's Embassy and demanding an apology from the Jordanian government.

On Wednesday, the leader of the clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance claimed during Iraq's first National Assembly meeting that neighboring Jordan wasn't doing enough to prevent terrorists from slipping into Iraq.

A number of Iraqi politicians, including interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, have demanded explanations from the Jordanian government.

Jordanian government spokeswoman Asma Khader condemned terrorism and stressed her country's solidarity with the Iraqi people.

"The government condemns strongly any attack against the Iraqi people, in particular the hideous massacre of Hillah which killed scores of innocent people," Khader said. "We have put intensive measures to track those terrorists and there is security coordination with Iraq to protect the borders of both countries."

Memorial held for GI who died in Afghanistan

A memorial service was held Saturday for an American soldier killed by a land mine Wednesday in western Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Shane Koelke of Hartley, Iowa, was assigned to the 212th Military Police Company out of Kitzingen, Germany.

Four other soldiers were injured when the armored Humvee they were riding in struck an anti-tank mine.

Two were treated and returned to duty and two others were taken to the military hospital at Bagram Air Base, treated and released.

According to a news release issued by the Coalition Press Information Center in Kabul, the military police unit had only recently arrived in Afghanistan.

On Tuesday night, two vehicles were out conducting a patrol about 12 miles south of the town of Shindand when one of military police vehicles became stuck in the mud.

During recovery attempts Wednesday, the Humvee that Koelke was riding in struck a mine.

Koelke, 25, is survived by a wife and infant daughter.

From staff reports



A Greenpeace activist dressed like the angel of death carries a sickle going through a baby doll during an anti-war protest Saturday in Istanbul, Turkey. Thousands of anti-war protesters gathered around the world to mark the second anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Protests mark invasion anniversary

The Associated Press

LONDON — Tens of thousands of anti-war protesters marked the second anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq with demonstrations across Europe on Saturday.

In Britain, police said about 45,000 demonstrators participated in a march from London's Hyde Park past the American Embassy and on to Trafalgar Square.

"We got the Iraqis into this mess, we need to help them out of it," said protester Kit MacLean, 29.

In the southern Turkish city of Adana, home to a Turkish military base used by American forces, protesters laid a black wreath in front of the U.S. Consulate to protest the war, the Anatolia news agency reported.

In Athens, Greece, about 3,000 protesters brought the city center to a standstill for three hours and painted outlines of bodies outside the U.S. Embassy.

The protests were nowhere near as big as those in February 2003, just before the war, when millions marched in cities around the world to urge U.S. President George W. Bush and his allies not to attack Iraq.

With international forces still facing a violent opposition in Iraq, protesters were divided about what to demand from leaders now. While some wanted a full troop withdrawal, others argued that that would leave Iraqis in a worse position than before the invasion.

Security was heavy outside the U.S. Embassy in London, where cement barricades and metal fences blocked the building, as they have since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Two former British soldiers placed a cardboard coffin bearing the words "100,000 dead" outside the embassy.

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PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Above: Soldiers from Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, treat casualties. A mass-casualty rehearsal for recently arrived soldiers was scheduled for Wednesday morning, but it was called off after real life took precedence — a car bomb exploding near the front gate of Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

Left: Capt. Cheryl Hartley of Nantui Gio, Pa., removes shrapnel from the leg of an Iraqi soldier Wednesday at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baqouba, Iraq, while other soldiers from Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion assist her.

Attack gives medical unit a baptism by fire

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

BAQOUBA, Iraq — At 10 a.m. Wednesday, the newly arrived soldiers were scheduled to rehearse a mass-casualty situation at their medical facility. Practice makes perfect, after all.

But about an hour before the rehearsal was to start, a car bomb exploded near their front gate. The rehearsal was called off, and a real-life drama unfolded. The soldiers worked through the controlled chaos and learned some lessons along the way.

"You never know when it's going to happen or where," said Capt. Al Paul, commander of "Charlie Med," Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, which operates the Teal Medical Facility at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

Four Iraqi army soldiers were killed in the blast; three died instantly and the fourth died on one of the clinic's operating tables.

Most of the 55 soldiers who make up Charlie Med and an additional 36 who belong to attached, related units arrived in Iraq in January or February as part of the 42nd Infantry Division's task Force Liberty, which now oversees operations in north-central Iraq.

Their baptism by fire began soon after the 8:43 a.m. blast was heard, and radio crackle began reporting casualties.

"It's not a scheduled event," Paul said. "We had personnel all over. They still have other duties. Some have to pull [security]. We had others who were teaching a class."

Within two hours, 17 Iraqi troops who were wounded were stabilized. Some were evacuated by helicopter to an Air Force Theatre Hospital in nearby Balad. Others were treated and returned

"When I see a patient on the table and the wounds they have and the blood on my gloves, it always gets me, even if they're not wearing the same uniform."

Spc. Linda Perez

to duty.

"We did better than I thought we were going to," said 21-year-old Spc. Penny Gainer of Cary, Ill., one of the first to arrive at Warhorse's front gate, where the victims were being brought.

"It was mine and a lot of peo-

ple's first time we'd seen a mass-casualty [event] like that," she said.

An hour after the clinic had cleared, the soldiers of Charlie Med reviewed what went right and made suggestions on how to improve. They graded their effort B-plus.

Among the adjustments they said they would make

before "next time":

■ Post guards to restrict the flow of people into and out of the small clinic as the casualties were being treated;

■ Have rooms better marked so stretcher-bearers would know where to carry the wounded;

■ Be better prepared to handle additional casualties in case of multiple attacks occurred in rapid succession.

They also discussed ways personnel other than doctors and medics — such as supply specialists and those who maintain the medical equipment — could assist in a more preplanned way.

Afterward, some of the soldiers said that Wednesday's real-life emergency gave them experience and taught lessons they could have never learned in the rehearsal that had been planned.

"When I see a patient on the table and the wounds they have and the blood on my gloves, it always gets me, even if they're not wearing the same uniform," said Spc. Linda Perez, 21, of Coppas Cove, Texas.

"You can't practice [like that] on a fake patient."

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MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Col. Tim Strassburger, an A-10 pilot with the 23rd Fighter Group from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., flies his aircraft about every other day. Behind him are A-10s with the famed "Flying Tigers" nose paintings.

'Warthogs' prove their mettle in Afghanistan

A-10s provide ground troops intimidating sky support

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — When American soldiers encounter the enemy in this country of seemingly endless mountains and rocky valleys, they can count on one thing their enemies can't: air power.

Much of that power is supplied by a small group of pilots who fly A-10 Thunderbolt IIs, somewhat affectionately known as "Warthogs."

They admittedly are not as elegant — or as fast — as their fighter counterparts, such as the F-15 or F-16. But the pilots taking the planes up daily into the skies over Afghanistan say they wouldn't want to be flying anything else.

"I think this aircraft is perfect for what we're doing here right now," said Col. Warren Henderson, commander of the 23rd Fighter Group at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and 455th Expeditionary Operations Group commander at Bagram.

And just what is that? "The basic thing we do here is support the guys on the ground with whatever they need," said Capt. Joe Scholtz, who had just finished a six-hour mission Saturday. Sometimes, the mere presence of an A-10 overhead can discourage attacks, the Air Force pilots say.

Other times, soldiers on the ground who have called in help from the friends in the skies see their opposition quit fighting and take off.

"When [enemy forces] see the A-10 overhead, they know it's time to disengage and run away," Henderson said.

Flying high since World War II

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The Flying Tigers achieved fame by helping the Chinese take on the Japanese in World War II.

Originally an all-volunteer force, the group of pilots kept a supply route open from Burma to China starting in the 1930s.

Seven decades later, the 23rd Fighter Group flies daily near China, supporting ground troops in Afghanistan.

According to Col. Warren Henderson, the group commander, one of the planes' ties to the past are the shark teeth they sport — a rare ornament for fighter aircraft in the Air Force.

But it is not the only one. "Basically, the Flying Tigers have been involved in every conflict we've had since World War II," he said.

About a squadron's worth of A-10s — between 12 and 18 planes — are serving a four-month stint in Afghanistan. They'll be followed by the other half of the group for the following four months.

— Kent Harris

convoys and visits by dignitaries to special events.

And those reconnaissance missions don't always involve potential enemies. On Friday night, A-10s helped locate local residents threatened by floodwaters in western Afghanistan. The pilots then gave the coordinates to Army helicopters that swooped in and rescued hundreds of stranded citizens.

Pilots like Scholtz, Capt. Ron Oliver and Lt. Col. Tim Strassburger are in the air about every other day. But their squadron of planes is in the skies around the clock.

The planes that Scholtz and Strassburger flew Saturday would be ready for another mission in about an hour, they said.

The planes don't complain, Oliver said.

"The more you fly them, the better they fly," he said.

The pilots say they could have a busy spring, with anticolonial forces expected to mount more attacks on forces on the ground.

"I'd rather support a guy on the ground than get an air-to-air kill any day," Strassburger said, acknowledging a difference between A-10 pilots and some of their fighter brethren.

"I guarantee you that at any Army post you go to, the A-10 guys drink for free."

Of course, that doesn't hold true in Afghanistan, where U.S. service members are not permitted to drink alcohol.

But there might be a few rounds waiting in North Carolina when the pilots return to Pope and their Fort Bragg neighbors — in this case, members of the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division — and their yearlong tour in Afghanistan.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris.k@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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A-10 "Warhog" pilots and ground crews at Bagram Air Base prepare Saturday for another sortie over Afghanistan. The planes are in the sky around the clock, supporting troops on the ground or carrying out reconnaissance missions.

IN THE STATES

Doctors remove Schiavo's feeding tube

Mother asks Bush to 'save my little girl'

BY MITCH STACY
The Associated Press

The mother of Terri Schiavo appealed Saturday to politicians to take action requiring reconnection of the feeding tube that was removed from the severely brain-damaged woman on court order.

"Please, please, please, save my little girl," Mary Schindler said outside the hospice where her daughter lives.

Schindler called upon President Bush, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, members of Congress and state lawmakers to do whatever they could to prevent Schiavo from dying.

Republican leaders on Capitol Hill, who failed Friday in a bid to use congressional subpoena powers to circumvent court orders, said they would work throughout the weekend to find a way to do that.

Lying in her hospice bed with a crowd of protesters gathering outside Friday, Terri Schiavo stopped receiving nourishment through a feeding tube that has kept her alive for more than a decade.

Doctors removed the tube despite an extraordinary, last-minute push by Republicans on Capitol Hill to use the subpoena powers of Congress to keep the brain-damaged woman alive.

Schiavo, 41, could linger one to two weeks, provided no one intercedes and gets the tube reinserted — something that has happened twice before.

But activists kept a vigil for Schiavo, while congressional Republicans and her parents' lawyers promised to go on fighting for her life as she spent her first full day Saturday without food and water.

Three men, led by anti-government activist James Gordon "Bo" Gritz, were arrested on misdemeanor trespassing charges after trying to enter the hospice Saturday with bread and water to give Schiavo. Although she cannot eat or drink, supporters of keeping her alive said the move had symbolic value.

A spokesman for Schiavo's parents, Paul O'Donnell, later told reporters that they do not want supporters to engage in civil disobedience on their daughter's behalf.

Schiavo's husband said removing the tube was what Terri wanted. He was at her side shortly after the tube was removed at mid-afternoon.

"I felt like some peace was happening for Terri," Michael Schiavo told NBC's "Today" on Saturday. "And I felt like she was finally going to get what she wants, and be at peace and be with the Lord."

The removal signals that an end may be near in a decade-long feud



Rev. Patrick Mahoney, center on ground, leads protesters in prayer Friday outside the Woodside Hospice in Pinellas Park, Fla., where Terri Schiavo is a patient. Schiavo — who has been in a coma-like state for 15 years — was removed from her feeding tube Friday afternoon.

between Schiavo's husband and her devoutly Roman Catholic parents, Bob and Mary Schindler. The parents have been trying to oust Michael Schiavo as their daughter's guardian and keep in place the tube that has kept her alive for more than 15 years.

David Gibbs III, the Schindlers' attorney, said he would work through the weekend to prepare another appeal for a federal appellate court. He also said he hoped lawmakers in Washington or Tallahassee could agree on legislation that would force that the tube be

reinserted.

The judge presiding over the case, Circuit Judge George Greer, ruled in the husband's favor and rejected the request from House attorneys to delay the removal, which he had previously ordered to take place at 1 p.m.

Case stirs emotions

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — She's known for her no-nonsense tone, but when Sen. Nancy Argonza took the floor after a week of closed-door negotiations over legislation meant to keep Terri Schiavo alive, she wept.

"I believe keeping someone from getting to heaven is the wrong thing to do," she said Friday, handkerchief in hand, as she explained why she couldn't vote to prolong the brain-damaged woman's life.

It was the peak of an emotional week for Florida lawmakers, who failed to pass legislation that could have prevented Friday's removal of Schiavo's feeding tube, despite pressure from Gov. Jeb Bush and conservative religious groups.

Some legislators accused the state of starving the disabled to death. Others painfully remembered their own decision to withhold food and water from loved ones who were already fading away, and said the government had no place intruding.

"We must give someone the opportunity to contribute to life in whatever way they can," said Rep. Dennis Baxley.

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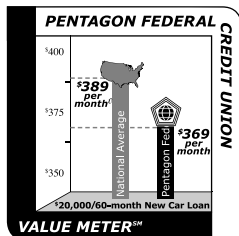
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Former Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland puts his hand on the shoulder of his wife, Patty, as they make their way through a crowd Friday on the way to U.S. District Court in New Haven, Conn.

Ex-Conn. governor gets year in prison

The Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — His voice occasionally wavering, former Gov. John G. Rowland stood before a federal judge and told how arrogance had led him to corruption.

"I let my pride get in my way," Rowland said Friday before U.S. District Judge Peter C. Dorsey sentenced him to a year in prison for selling access to his office for personal gain.

Rowland, 47, pleaded guilty in December to a corruption charge, admitting he sold his influence for more than \$100,000 in trips to Las Vegas, vacations in Vermont and Florida, and improvements at his lakeside cottage.

He resigned last summer amid a gathering drive to impeach him.

Once Connecticut's youngest governor and one of the Republican Party's fastest-rising stars, Rowland told Dorsey that he lost sight of his ethical judgment and developed a "sense of entitlement and even arrogance."

Dorsey cited Rowland's public service and his children for handing down the sentence, which was shorter than the 15 months to 21 months in prison called for in the plea agreement Rowland made with prosecutors.

After hearing the sentence, Rowland hugged his wife, Patty, who was sobbing, and his two daughters, who were also in tears. While Rowland tried to downplay the charge against him Friday, prosecutors repeatedly called him corrupt.

"He has corrupted the office of the governor as if he took a bag of cash in a dark alley," Assistant U.S. Attorney Nora Dannehy told Dorsey. "He was corrupt. It was a six-year conspiracy to deprive this state of honest services."

Dorsey sentenced Rowland to a year plus one day in prison, four months of home confinement and three years of supervised release. He ordered Rowland to report to prison on April 1 in Ayer, Mass.

Rowland was fined \$82,000 and ordered to do 300 hours of community service.

Bush praises democratic moves in the Middle East

The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — The U.S. military victory against Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq gets the credit for "inspiring democratic reforms from Beirut to Tehran," President Bush said Saturday.

"Today, women can vote in Afghanistan, Palestinians are breaking the old patterns of violence, and hundreds of thousands of Lebanese are rising up to demand their sovereignty and democratic rights," Bush said in a weekly radio address that marked the two-year anniversary of the start of the Iraq war.

With his primary rationale for the war — Saddam's alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction — discredited, Bush has turned to the argument that the war in Iraq was justified because it freed the Iraqi people from a bru-

tal dictator and now gives the Middle East a model for democracy.

Bush said, "The Iraqi people are taking charge of their own destiny," citing the country's first free and fair elections in its modern history, this week's first meeting of the Transitional National Assembly and the upcoming drafting of a constitution for a "free and democratic Iraq."

Against that progress, insurgents have carried on a relentless campaign of suicide bombings, kidnappings, and beheadings while rampant crime, power outages, unemployment over 50 percent and a fuel crisis in one of the world's prime oil-exporting countries continues.

Some have questioned Bush's repeated claims that recent democratic developments in several global hotspots are due to both the Iraq war and his second-term drive to push for reforms.

Yates' split is official

BY PAM EASTON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Russell Yates finalized his divorce Thursday from his wife, Andrea, three years after she was sentenced to life in prison for drowning their children.

Under the decree, Andrea Yates will get her gliding rocking chair — generally used for nursing babies — and the right to be buried near the five children. Russell Yates also will give her \$7,000 and a portion of his retirement benefits from his employment at NASA.

The house where the children were drowned in the bathtub in 2001 has been sold.

Andrea Yates, 40, was sentenced to life in prison for three of the 2001 drowning deaths, but the capital murder convictions were overturned in January. A panel of the First Court of Appeals in Houston sided with her lawyers, who contended false testimony from a prosecution expert witness influenced the jury. Andrea Yates claimed she was insane at the time of the drownings.

Prosecutors have asked the full appeals court to reconsider.

"She has come to terms with it and knows Rusty needs to go on with his life," Andrea Yates' attorney, John O'Sullivan, said.

"She just wants to get it behind her. She doesn't like it. She wishes it didn't happen."

The divorce also was tough for Russell Yates, his



The Yates family is shown in this November 2000 photo. In back are Andrea Yates, pregnant with daughter Mary, and her husband, Russell. In front are, from left, John, Luke, Paul and Noah. Russell Yates finalized his divorce Thursday.

attorney David Salinsky said. Russell Yates still cares for Andrea and continues to visit her in prison, he said.

The couple married on April 17, 1993, and stopped living together on June 20, 2001, the day the children were killed, according to the divorce petition.

Andrea Yates remains at a psychiatric prison in East Texas.



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Police: Remains of missing Fla. girl found

Suspect confesses to kidnapping, killing 9-year-old

By MIKE BRANOM

The Associated Press

HOMOSASSA, Fla. — The body of missing 9-year-old Jessica Lunsford was found early Saturday, a day after officials said a registered sex offender confessed to kidnapping and killing the girl.

Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsey said Jessica's body was found during an overnight search in a densely wooded area, only about 150 yards away from the home the girl shared with her father and grandparents.

Jessica's father, Mark Lunsford, visited the search scene shortly after sunrise and gave a brief, emotional statement to reporters.

"Everyone heard me say, time after time, that she would be home," Lunsford said, his eyes hidden behind dark black sunglasses. "She's home now."

John Evander Couey, 46, confessed to kidnapping and killing Jessica after taking a lie-detector test Friday in Georgia, Dawsey said. She disappeared from her bedroom more than three weeks ago.

"We're en route to bring him back home," said Dawsey, who added that he wants Couey to face the death penalty.

"This guy is not a quality person, by any means. ... He's truly a piece of trash," the sheriff said.

Dawsey said that four other people were charged in connection with the case, three of them with obstruction for failing to notify police when Couey allegedly told them he had committed a crime. A fourth, the sheriff said, was picked up for questioning in the case but was charged only with failure to pay child support in an unrelated matter.

Dawsey called the four "a bunch of drugies" and said he would urge prosecutors not to allow them to plea-bargain for reduced sentences.

The body was found in the area around the trailer home of Couey's half-sister.

Crews worked through the night in temperatures that dipped into the low 40s. Bright search lights were directed around the perimeter, and several candles left from a late-night vigil burned nearby.

Lunsford has said the family did not know Couey,

who was arrested Thursday.

"He may have interacted with Jessica," Dawsey said. "But there is no relationship between Couey and this family."

At a news conference late Friday from Ohio, the girl's mother, Angela Bryant, repeatedly made the same vow: Couey, she said, "will pay."

"This man's hurt too many people," she said through tears.

Jessica, a third-grader, was last seen when she went to bed in her home Feb. 23. She was discovered missing in the next morning, with the door unlocked and her stuffed animal gone. The clothes she had laid out for school were still in place, and her shoes weren't missing.

Detectives grew interested in Couey while interviewing all registered sex offenders in the area. They tried to contact Couey at his home in Homosassa five days after Jessica disappeared and discovered he no longer lived there.

When investigators followed up with the half-sister, she denied that Couey had lived with her. But another relative confided to a detective that Couey sometimes stayed at the home.

Authorities said Couey left Florida on or about March 4 after telling relatives that police would be looking for him. He was arrested in Augusta, Ga., on a probation violation for failing to notify officials that he was moving, a requirement for sex offenders. He was awaiting extradition to Florida on Friday.

Couey has an extensive criminal record that includes 24 arrests for burglary, carrying a concealed weapon and indecent exposure. In 1991, he was arrested in Kissimmee on a charge of fondling a child under age 16. Records don't show how the case was resolved.



Jessica Lunsford



AP

Mark Lunsford, the father of Jessica Lunsford, embraces Jessica's cousin Kristy Kirkland prior to addressing the media near his home in Homosassa, Fla., on Saturday. Authorities say they have found the body of Jessica and caught the suspect in her slaying.

Fiancee says Letterman suspect falsely accused

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The fiancée of a Montana man charged with plotting to kidnap David Letterman's son said her husband-to-be is being falsely accused by a childhood friend he had a falling out with.

Kelly A. Frank was arrested Monday after the estranged friend told authorities that Frank had confided a plan to kidnap 16-month-old Harry Joseph Letterman and his nanny for \$5 million in ransom.

Frank, 43, and the informant not only had been friends since they were 10 but also had worked together at the talk-show host's ranch, west of Choteau, Mont., said the fiancée, Laurie Johnson.

In interviews published Saturday, Johnson told the New York Daily News and New York Post that the estranged friend has a "personal vendetta" against Frank because of a fight they had at work, and has been trying to incriminate him ever since.

Johnson said the informant twisted an offhand remark Frank had made about Letterman increasing security at the ranch

into a threat against the child.

"He has always had great respect for Letterman," Johnson, 40, told the Daily News.

"He felt privileged to be able to go up there and work for him."

Frank is charged with felony solicitation, felony theft for allegedly overcharging Letterman for painting work and misdemeanor obstruction for allegedly lying to an FBI agent who first questioned him about the plot.



Frank

He is being held on \$600,000 bail and is scheduled to make his next court appearance Tuesday.

Authorities in Teton County, Mont., said it was not clear whether Frank had an attorney yet. He had not been assigned a public defender as of Friday afternoon.

Frank previously pleaded guilty to stalking and intimidating a woman who alleges he also kidnapped and raped her.

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Top 'Movie Stars' list gets mixed reviews

Premiere's list of '50 Greatest' gives nods to current, classic actors

BY TAMER EL-GHOBASHY
AND BILL HUTCHINSON

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — A magazine's list of the "50 Greatest Movie Stars" is getting more jeers than cheers from film lovers flabbergasted that Tom Cruise outranks John Wayne and Marlon Brando.

Premiere magazine's editors spent two years painstakingly crafting the royal roster that puts Cruise at No. 3, behind only Marilyn Monroe and list-topper Cary Grant.

Another head-scratcher was Julia Roberts, who cracked the top 10 at No. 7, while four-time Oscar winner Katharine Hepburn came in at No. 14.

"Julia Roberts shouldn't even make the list yet," said Mark Grobowski, 51, a construction director from Long Island. "You have to put in a lot of work to get there."

Jessica Faurie, 25, of Manhattan said Cruise, not rank on



Paul Newman

her personal list of top-shelf film stars.

"There are many actors who are better than him," said the medical secretary.

But Premiere senior editor Glenn Kenny said Cruise earned his spot on the list, one notch above John Wayne, because he's "the biggest contemporary movie star in the last years."



Brando

Cruise is so big with the magazine's editors that they put his picture on the cover of the April issue.

Premiere's list of '50 Greatest Movie Stars'

1. Cary Grant
2. Marilyn Monroe
3. Tom Cruise
4. John Wayne
5. Ingrid Bergman
6. Paul Newman
7. Julia Roberts
8. Greta Garbo
9. James Stewart
10. Henry Fonda
11. James Cagney
12. Grace Kelly
13. Humphrey Bogart
14. Katharine Hepburn
15. Marlon Brando
16. Jack Nicholson
17. Robert Redford
18. Audrey Hepburn
19. Spencer Tracy
20. Sidney Poitier
21. Clark Gable
22. Judy Garland
23. Fred Astaire
24. Doris Day
25. Bette Davis
26. Errol Flynn
27. Gregory Peck
28. Tom Hanks
29. Warren Beatty
30. James Dean
31. Steve McQueen
32. Jane Fonda
33. Shirley Temple

34. Rita Hayworth
35. Harrison Ford
36. Sean Connery
37. Al Pacino
38. Robert De Niro
39. Denzel Washington
40. Elizabeth Taylor
41. Peter Sellers
42. Gary Cooper
43. Clint Eastwood
44. Will Smith
45. Jack Lemmon
46. Meryl Streep
47. Johnny Depp
48. Nicole Kidman
49. Russell Crowe
50. Brad Pitt

— KRT



Cruise

list-topper Cary Grant.

Another head-scratcher was Julia Roberts, who cracked the top 10 at No. 7, while four-time Oscar winner Katharine Hepburn came in at No. 14.

"Julia Roberts shouldn't even make the list yet," said Mark Grobowski, 51, a construction director from Long Island. "You have to put in a lot of work to get there."

Jessica Faurie, 25, of Manhattan said Cruise, not rank on

Lucas offers peek at final 'Star Wars'

BY DAVID GERMAIN
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Two decades ago, George Lucas pulled off the mask to reveal the face of one of cinema's greatest bad guys. Now, he's about to slip the mask back on.

Lucas offered a preview Thursday of his final "Star Wars" chapter, which spells out the last dark steps the once goodhearted young Anakin Skywalker takes to become the villain Darth Vader.

"It's not like the old 'Star Wars,'" Lucas told theater owners at the Sho-West convention. "This one's a little bit more emotional. We like to describe it as 'Titanic' in space. It's a tearjerker."

Opening May 19, "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith" brings full circle the mammoth sci-fi saga Lucas began in 1977 with the original "Star Wars," which shattered box-office records and remains one of the top-grossing movies ever.

Reaction was mixed on "Episode I — The Phantom Menace" and "Episode II — Attack of the Clones," many fans grousing that the first one was too much a kid-

die flick and the second one too sappy a love story. Calling the latest movie a Faustian tragedy, Lucas said he is unconcerned about whether "Revenge of the Sith" draws more barbs from "Star Wars" fans.

"I feel that I've made the movie the best I can and it turned out the way I wanted it to be, so I'm happy," Lucas, 60, told The Associated Press in an interview. "I never try to anticipate what the world's going to think or even worry about whether they're going to like it or not."

The film immediately launches into a space battle elaborate even by "Star Wars" standards as Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) and his Jedi knight master, Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), lead a mission to rescue the kidnapped Palpatine, chancellor of the Republic.

The trailer, screened Thursday, sets up the rest of the scenario, with the suspicious Jedi council assigning Anakin to spy on Palpatine after his rescue, while the chancellor — the future evil Emperor of the original trilogy — plots to seduce the young knight to the dark side of the Force.

Roberts, who won an Academy Award in 2000 for her portrayal of crusading environmentalist Erin Brockovich, earned her high spot on the list for being Hollywood's highest-paid go-to actress.

"Another reason why she's so appealing is because she often identifies — onscreen, anyway — with the working class," reports Premiere.

Part of the reasoning for picking actors like Roberts, Cruise, Will Smith (No. 44), Nicole Kidman (48), Russell Crowe (49) and Brad Pitt (50) was their "staying power."

"We weren't going to do this list based on a whole nostalgic trip," said Kenny. "To just do a list where you're going to ignore

contemporary movie stars makes no sense."

Twenty-six of the 50 greatest are dead, including Ingrid Bergman (5), Greta Garbo (8), James Stewart (9) and Henry Fonda (10).

Besides Cruise and Roberts, Paul Newman (6) is the only other living actor to make the top 10.

Al Pacino and Robert De Niro finished 37th and 38th, while Den-

zel Washington was 39th.

"I think that if you get too hung up on rankings, you're going to miss the enjoyment of the list," said Kenny.

Beverly Dawkins, 56, a receptionist from Queens, thought the list was spot-on.

"I love movies, especially old movies," Dawkins said. "I think it's an excellent list. You have all my favorites — but not in the right order."



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IN THE WORLD

Rice tours military bunker during South Korea visit

BY ANNE GEARAN
The Associated Press

SEOUL — From inside a mountain-side bunker, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice saw first-hand Saturday what a war with North Korea might look like.

Rice became the most senior American official to tour a command center for U.S. and South Korean troops that would be the battle headquarters in the event of fighting with the communist North.

"I know that you face a close-in threat every day," Rice told troops at Command Post Tango, or Theater Air Naval Ground Operations.

Rice's visit coincided with a

twice-yearly war exercise involving thousands of American and South Korean soldiers. When Rice got a look at the command center, it also was the first time that reporters and cameras were allowed into the bunker south of Seoul.

North Korea denounced the exercises as a rehearsal for a U.S.-led pre-emptive attack.

"The Republic of Korea, a great democracy now, faces a threat across the divide of a state that is not democratic, that is not free, and that does not have the best interests of its people at heart," Rice said.

Rice's trip to Asia is intended partly to push North Korea to resume nuclear disarmament talks. She repeatedly has assured North

Korea that the United States has no intention of invading.

Still, more than 32,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea, with more at the ready nearby. They are testament to the tension and suspicion between North and South Korea five decades after active hostilities ended in the Korean War.

"In parts of the world, the Cold War has ended and we've been able to [produce] a continent like Europe, that is now whole and free," Rice told commanders and troops. "But of course, divisions remain here in Korea."

In a large underground room that resembled a college lecture hall, Rice received a classified briefing on war preparations. In place of a blackboard, the room



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice shakes hands with U.S. Forces Korea Deputy Commander Gen. Kim Jang-soo, as USFK Commander Gen. Leon J. LaPorte looks on Saturday at the command control center for the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces at Seongnam, South Korea.

has a huge computer-driven display screen.

When reporters were brought into the room, the lighted screen showed only the State Department seal where maps or detailed planning data would be.

For the military exercise, about 17,000 U.S.-based troops were joining 6,000 soldiers stationed in South Korea.

North Korea contended the exercise was "a maneuver for a nuclear war against the North."

Mandela hosts AIDS benefit concert in South Africa

BY CLARE NULLIS
The Associated Press

GEORGE, South Africa — Former President Nelson Mandela on Saturday hosted his second star-studded concert to raise awareness of the AIDS pandemic that has struck millions across Africa.

Actor Will Smith and musicians Annie Lennox, India. Arie and Brian May were

among a host of local and international celebrities featured on the lineup for the "46664" concert — named after Mandela's prison number while he was incarcerated for 27 years under apartheid.

This year's event highlighted the plight of women and girls, who are six times more likely to be infected with the AIDS virus than men in South Africa.

"Women don't only bear the burden of

HIV infection, they also bear the burden of HIV care," Mandela said in a statement released on the eve of the concert.

"Grandmothers are looking after children. Women are caring for their dying husbands. Children are looking after dying parents and surviving siblings."

An estimated 5.3 million of South Africa's 45 million people live with HIV, more than in any other country. Between 600

and 1,000 die every day from AIDS related diseases, according to U.N. figures.

Mandela, who lost his eldest son to the disease earlier this year, said he hopes the event will help raise funds for AIDS charities. "We are facing a tragedy of unprecedented proportions," Mandela said in the statement.

"Our response, therefore, has to be unprecedented."

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Lebanon's pro-Syria leader to skip summit

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Lebanon's pro-Syria president said Saturday that he will not attend an Arab summit due to political turmoil in his country as investigators searched for clues to a car bomb that rocked a largely Christian neighborhood in Beirut, injuring nine people.

President Emile Lahoud did not elaborate on his decision not to participate in Monday's summit in Algeria, but it came as Syria withdraws troops from Lebanon after facing heavy pressure from the United States and fellow Arab countries to end a three-decade presence.

The attack devastated an eight-

story apartment building in the largely Christian New Jdeideh neighborhood shortly after midnight Saturday.

Lahoud, a close Syrian ally, made no mention of the attack, saying only in a statement that Lebanon was experiencing "exceptional circumstances" that required "immediate and direct dialogue" between opposition and pro-government groups.

He also offered to host immediate talks between Lebanon's various political factions amid negotiations over the formation of a new government.

Opposition legislator Fares Seid dismissed the invite, saying: "It's too late. This subject is closed."

Elbe River expected to flood parts of Dresden

BERLIN — German authorities issued a flood alert Saturday for Dresden, where melting snow was swelling the Elbe River three years after its waters devastated the city's cultural treasures.

Waters were expected to reach a flood plain below the old town's stone ramparts as early as Saturday and the city fire department was put on round-the-clock alert, Saxony state officials said.

Dresden residents were warned that roads and basements in parts of the city would flood Sunday.

From The Associated Press

YOUR MONEY

Credit reports are free, if you're careful

BY MARY ANN MILBOURN
Orange County (Calif.) Register

When J.J. Singh heard in December that he could get a free credit report, he immediately went online to sign up. Within seconds, the report appeared on his computer screen, ready to download and print out.

"It was excellent," the retired La Palma, Calif., engineer said about the ordering process.

Ed Bushman, a retired radio manager in Irvine, Calif., phoned for his free credit report about the same time as Singh went online and, nearly two months later, he's still waiting to get it.

"They talk a good talk," Bushman said about the three big credit-reporting companies. "But after they got all the publicity, they dropped the ball."

December's launch of free annual credit reports won mixed reviews from consumers, with some applauding the program while others say it has fallen short.

The aim of the program, required by a new federal law, is to let consumers easily check their credit reports for inaccuracies and any evidence of identity theft.

Credit-reporting agencies Equifax, Experian and TransUnion had a year to put together the joint program, but even with all the advance planning, there were glitches.

Most of the problems occurred the first week, as the first of an estimated 40 million to 50 million consumers in the Western states jammed the Web site.

"The first day we had very heavy volumes with hundreds of thousands of people visiting the site trying to get their report," said John Danaher, president of TrueCredit, a subsidiary of TransUnion that oversees its credit reporting.

About 70 percent of TransUnion's requests for reports come online, with most of the rest coming through a toll-free phone

Consumers confused as no-cost personal financial info becomes available

number. Just a fraction of the requests are made in writing, Danaher said.

In response to the crush of requests, the agencies say they beefed up staffing and now most of their Internet problems, such as online delays and computer crashes, appear to be resolved.

Consumers may phone requests vary from very efficient to totally frustrating, depending on your tolerance for going through an automated menu of questions and the expertise of the customer representative you get.

People who submit written requests report getting either response within 10 days or none at all.

Jennette Gayer, consumer advocate for the California Public Interest Research Group, a nonpartisan consumer watchdog group, is concerned that the system is unnecessarily complicated.

"If I were to design this, I could think of a hundred ways to make it more consumer-friendly," Gayer said.

For instance, consumers making their request online must ask for each report individually from each of the three agencies. That requires going to the official Web site three separate times, typing in your name, address, birth date and Social Security number each time, then selecting one of the three credit agencies and answering additional questions to confirm your identity.

Each agency has different questions and requirements, with some requiring very precise information such as how much your mortgage payment is or the name of your employer in 1985. If your answer is even slightly off, you get rejected.

David Rubinger at Equifax said all the hurdles are for consumers' protection to ensure they are who they say they are before getting access to credit information.

"When you go through the pro-



cess of ordering a credit report online, you need to get authenticated," he said.

Even if you get kicked offline you still can get your report, he said. You just have to order by phone or mail.

Ann Anderson was one of those who got locked out of the Web site and was told she would have to call or write if she wanted a free copy of her credit information.

Which leads to another complaint—that advertising on each agency's free credit-report Web

site may mislead consumers into thinking they must purchase other services—like a credit score—that they don't need to buy if they just want a free report. The law that required the agencies to provide the free reports allowed them to advertise their other services, but it is not always clear on the sites that those extras are optional and in some cases may be a waste of money.

For instance, you probably don't need to know your credit score, sometimes called a FICO

score, unless you're in the market for a new car, house or other major purchase. Gayer and other consumer advocates worry that some consumers may not realize they can decline these services and just get the free report.

"You don't have to pay the \$4 or \$5 for a FICO score," Gayer said.

Another problem is that many look-alike Web sites can be confused with the official free credit-report site set up by the three credit-reporting agencies. The official site, at www.annualcreditreport.com, is separate from the credit-reporting agencies' regular Web sites, where consumers must pay to get their credit information, and other sites with similar names, which may just be trying to cash in on the program or may be fronts for credit fraud.

Hector Gonzalez of Orange, Calif., who works as a courier but does investing online, may have been one of those who was confused about the official Web site.

He went to a site that talked about free credit reports, but it required him to subscribe to a credit-tracking service to get his "free" report. He signed up for the \$70-a-year service.

"I know they were just trying to hook me in," Gonzalez said.

That service allowed him to cancel within a month, which he did, so in the end he didn't have to pay.

Don Girard of Experian said some of these services may be valuable to consumers, but none is required in order to qualify for a free report.

More importantly, he said, consumers need to make sure they are on the right site for their own protection.

"If you receive something in the mail or a telemarketing call or an e-mail, it is probably fraudulent," Girard said. "Security was very important to us when we designed this, so your readers have to go to [the right site], www.annualcreditreport.com."

First Command delays deadline of refund claims

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—Lawyers handling refunds in the First Command Financial Planning case have extended the deadline for claims until June 30 to accommodate troops serving overseas.

Wayne M. Secore, the attorney administering the restitution program, said officials may push back that deadline even further if necessary. Originally, investors had only until March 15 to recoup their losses.

"We want to make sure everyone who is owed money has an opportunity to collect," Secore said. "We're still having requests coming in, so that's another reason to push back the deadline."

In December, as part of a settlement with federal regulators, First Command

In December, as part of a settlement with federal regulators, First Command agreed to refund about \$4 million in portfolio fees to customers who bought and sold systematic investment funds from the firm between 1999 and 2004.

agreed to refund about \$4 million in portfolio fees to customers who bought and sold systematic investment funds from the firm between 1999 and 2004.

Company officials eliminated those funds late last year, but were already under investigation by the Security and Exchange Commission and the National Association of Securities Dealers for misrepresenting the up-front costs of those investments.

Also in the settlement, First Command paid an \$8 million fine—to be used by regulators to establish an investment education program for military personnel—and agreed to have all advertising approved by an independent consultant for two years.

According to SEC estimates, about 40 percent of current active-duty general officers, about one-third of the commissioned officers, and about 16 percent of

noncommissioned officers are customers of First Command. The firm's client total is just under 300,000, and the majority of its sales agents are retired military officers.

Secore said the decision to extend the deadline even further will depend on the level of response and questions from investors over the next three months, and if more time could result in more customers being helped. A number of troops serving overseas have already contacted his office, but he said officials are concerned that even more won't have time to inquire about the settlement until they return from deployment.

Investors with additional questions can contact his office at secore@secorewall.com. Visit <http://www.nas.com> for more information.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Greenspan right on debt's ills The Buffalo (N.Y.) News

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's warning that ballooning federal deficits are "unsustainable" should be a much-needed splash of cold water for a White House that too often puts ideology before fiscal reality.

Greenspan thinks the problem demands spending cuts and a reassessment of efforts to cut taxes. The Bush administration and congressional Republicans think he's only half right. They ought to be listening with both ears. ...

The deficit problem is driven more by Medicare than Social Security. The federal government has passed huge entitlement increases, primarily a Medicare prescription drug benefit, at the same time it has cut its own revenue by "temporary" tax cuts that the White House still wants to make permanent. Anyone who prepares a household budget knows what happens when you increase expenses while losing income. ...

Regardless of what Vice President (Dick) Cheney thinks, deficits do matter. They pay for current needs by mortgaging the country's future. But those bills eventually come due. Greenspan is right to worry that increasing debt, plus ever-increasing interest costs on that debt, could mean disaster when that debt collides with increasing baby boomer Medicare and Social Security obligations, let alone the costs of wars.

Shedding light on secrecy The News Tribune, Tacoma, Wash.

Self-preservation is human nature, and so it is not surprising when someone tries to hide a potentially embarrassing or compromising bit of information about himself. That instinct leads some government officials to keep their dealings secret. Problem is, the information they want to keep under wraps isn't primarily about them. It's about us. ...

If that's the aim of public disclosure laws — to make sure private citizens can get at the information that affects their daily lives, whether they know it or not. ...

Sunshine Week, an effort spearheaded by the American Society of Newspaper Editors, is intended to highlight the importance of public disclosure laws and to call attention to their erosion.

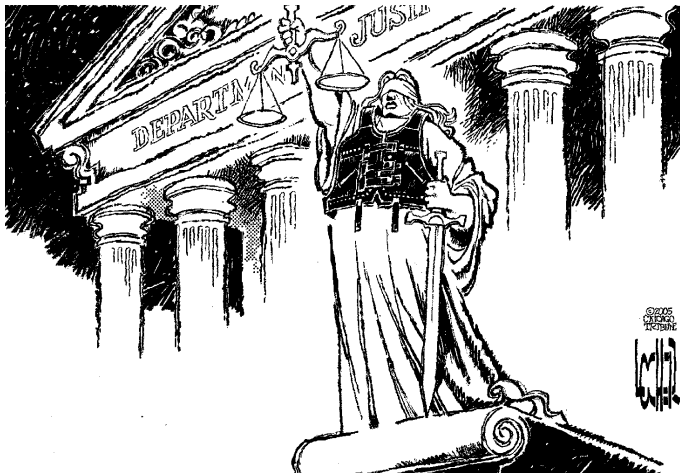
[The] journalists' fight against government secrecy is the public's right; reporters and editors just are the first to notice encroachments on the public's right to know. ...

The fight will never end because government will always be a human endeavor. The people we put in charge need constant reminders that they avoid embezzlement, the public's peril and, eventually, their own. It's not about them. It's about us.

U.N. has issues with Bolton Chicago Tribune

Since the start of his second term, President Bush has sent repeated messages that when he talks about aggressively spreading freedom and democracy, he means what he says. This month's declaration comes via the president's nomination of serial truth-teller John Bolton as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

If the Senate confirms the appointment, Bush will have aimed a tidal wave of energy and candor at the snoozy U.N. complex on New York City's East River. This promises to shake the awfully sleepy body to sleep, to be consumed by such weighty issues as where in Manhattan diplomats can park free, and



who'll be air-kissing whom at tonight's reception. ...

For too long, the U.N. has been reluctant to offend powerful exploiters in its midst. In Darfur, for example, the determination of China to buy Sudanese oil and of Russia to sell Sudan weapons has blocked any real effort to halt mass murder.

U.N. delegates need to hear more confrontational talk about the organization's failings and also about nuclear proliferation, an area in which Bolton is expert. And if a tidal wave on the East River breaks some cobwebbed windows, good.

Society must protect judges The Cincinnati Enquirer

A defendant in Atlanta wrests a gun from a deputy and kills a judge in his courtroom. A disappointed litigant murders the husband and mother of a judge in Chicago and has a list of other judicial targets when he kills himself as police approach. A disturbed woman sends threatening letters to a federal judge in Cincinnati. These recent stories from America's courtrooms are just a fraction of the risks our judges face daily.

These high-profile cases also highlight the need for ever more vigilant security and a very small tolerance for those who attack all of us by attacking the judicial system. ...

Protecting judges, particularly on the federal level, poses many challenges, not the least of which is cost. But against the backdrop of these recent tragedies, now is the time to reassess the security of our courts and those who dispense justice within them.

Be flexible on Social Security The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tenn.

Whether you love him or hate him, at least a few of President Bush's words about Social Security should ring true.

"My call to people from both political parties is: Now is the time to put aside our political differences and focus on solving this problem for generations to come," Bush said during a (recent) appearance in Memphis. "All ideas should be on the table."

From the way Bush was talking, it sounded as if even his idea to create private accounts — the controversial centerpiece of his reform plan — is open for debate.

That's a good thing, since a poll conducted by The Associated Press indicates that only

37 percent of Americans agree with his approach to fixing Social Security. Aside from a few hecklers who were escorted out of the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, the (Memphis) crowd was pretty respectful. However, the protesters outside reflected our country's deep division on this issue.

Yet if our president is really willing to be flexible and consider new ideas, the rest of us should be, too.

Oceans elect to avoid runoff The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

Anyone who lives in Louisiana is familiar with this scenario: runoff from farmland drains into the Gulf and triggers a massive bloom of algae that sucks oxygen out of the water as it dies and decomposes.

In this case, though, the phenomenon being described isn't the Gulf of Mexico dead zone that forms off the coast of Louisiana and Texas every summer. Instead, it's what happens in the Gulf of California — also called the Sea of Cortez — after irrigation in the Yaqui River Valley.

Researchers at Stanford University who analyzed satellite photographs were able to show a direct connection between irrigation and algae blooms. ...

The study reveals, how vulnerable our oceans really are, and it should strengthen the argument for changes in farming practices.

Stanford researchers warn that dead zones could damage the shrimp and shellfish industry and hurt other marine life in the Gulf of California. The potential is there for loss of similar resources in other parts of the world, including our own.

No idiots in the jury box Los Angeles Times

Last summer, we questioned former Enron Chairman Kenneth L. Lay's decision to sit ignorant as the cornerstone of his legal defense against charges that he helped to orchestrate the massive accounting fraud that sank his company, destroyed investors' wealth and cost thousands of employees their jobs. It didn't seem plausible that jurors would buy into a powerful executive's claim to be incompetent.

Apparently, lawyers don't always heed newspaper editorials. Defense teams for former WorldCom Chief Executive Bernard J. Ebbers and former HealthSouth CEO Richard M. Scrushy also signed on to the "idiot

defense," claiming that their clients' subordinates had pulled off the sham accounting on their own while the bosses were busy with more important things.

Early returns suggest that jurors aren't buying it. On Tuesday, a New York jury determined that Ebbers was guilty of all nine criminal counts of securities fraud, conspiracy and lying to regulators in orchestrating the largest accounting fraud in U.S. corporate history. ...

The total breakdown of Ebbers' idiot defense should send a powerful message to Scrushy and Lay. Scrushy, the first corporate executive to be tried under provisions of the federal Sarbanes-Oxley Act, sparked by Enron's failure, is pressing on with the "I knew nothing" defense in a Birmingham, Ala., courtroom. Lay, who will go on trial early next year on fraud and conspiracy charges, is so far taking the same tack.

His lawyers had best scramble for a Plan B. ...

Ignorance may be bliss in some quarters, but not in the executive suite.

Push on to limit junk-food ads St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Parents have a responsibility to prevent their children from becoming overweight. But what can they do about those ads that saturate the airwaves on Saturday mornings, exhorting kids to fill up on sugary cereals, drinks, candy and chips? They could turn off the TV. They could model healthy eating habits by resisting their own junk-food urges. And they can pressure government agencies to regulate the way junk food is hyped to kids.

Last fall, the Institute of Medicine, part of the National Academy of Sciences, urged that a conference be convened to develop strict government guidelines for food marketing to children. Instead, the U.S. Department of Health urged voluntary action by industry.

Groups ranging from the American Academy of Pediatrics to the World Health Organization have called for restrictions on the marketing of junk food to children. The food industry can't pretend it doesn't know how effective its marketing efforts have been. ...

It's in every taxpayer's interest to combat the predatory marketing practices of junk-food makers with the same vigor, if not the same tools, used to end the predatory marketing practices of the tobacco industry. If they can get Joe Camel fired, who knows? The Trix bunny rabbit may be next.

Alligator kills man

FL LAKELAND — A man found dead in a pond was the victim of a nearly nine-foot alligator that was captured and killed, the medical examiner's office said.

Officials did not know what Don Owen, 56, a truck driver from Bartow, was doing at the pond about a dozen miles from his home. He had been missing several days and was last seen at a convenience store.

His remains were found by several men fishing in Six Pound Pond. An autopsy determined he had been killed by the eight-foot, nine-inch alligator, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said.

Trappers caught the alligator Monday. Owen's forearm was found in its stomach.

Crossword champ

CT STAMFORD — The bookish world of crossword puzzle aficionados has a fresh-faced new champion.

College student Tyler Hinman, 20, beat out more than 450 competitors from across the country to win top honors at the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament.

He's now the youngest champion in the 28-year-history of the tournament. He said he will spend his \$4,000 prize money on tuition.

"I can't even celebrate," said Hinman, wearing jeans, a T-shirt, and a baseball cap marked with the insignia of his fraternity at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. "I'm not old enough to go to a pub and drink myself stupid."

It was a close win: a 46-year-old engineer named Al Sanders from Fort Collins, Colo., finished the same puzzle first, but missed the answer "Zolaesque" for the clue "stark and richly detailed, as writing."

Freeway shooting kills 3

TX DALLAS — A man squeezed through the sunroof of a Jaguar and opened fire with an automatic assault rifle on another moving vehicle, killing three men and critically wounding a fourth, police said.

Authorities were searching for the gunman and two others, including a woman, who may have been riding in the light-colored, late model Jaguar with fancy wheels, according to Dallas and University Park police.

A police officer waiting at a traffic light at the intersection witnessed the shootings and stopped to help when the second car crashed, Dallas police Sgt. Gil Cerda said. Police policy prohibited the officer from pursuing the fleeing vehicle because he already had a prisoner from an unrelated case in his back seat.

Cow-smuggling case

NY SYRACUSE — Federal authorities have charged two men with smuggling banned Canadian cattle into the United States.

A federal grand jury indictment against Louis R. Jacobs, of St. Sny, Quebec, and Andrew J. Derouche, of Fort Covington, of bringing six cows into the United States last Aug. 25, U.S. Attorney Glenn

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Suddaby said.

The importation of cattle and cattle products has been prohibited by federal regulation since May 2003 because of concern over bovine spongiform encephalopathy, commonly called mad cow disease. The federal government took the action after the discovery of a single infected cow from a commercial farm in northern Alberta, Canada.

Historic building burns

AR LITTLE ROCK — A fire destroyed the former headquarters of a major black social organization, which was to be remodeled into a museum on African-American life.

The fire began at about 2 a.m., eventually leading to the three-story building's collapse. The cause of the fire was not immediately determined. Some nearby buildings had minor damage.

Built in 1911, the building was the national headquarters for the Mosaic Templars, which had chapters in 26 states as well as six foreign countries.

Abortion law on hold

MI LANSING — A new state law that bans a procedure critics call partial-birth abortion will not take effect this month so that the state has more time to respond to a federal lawsuit challenging the statute.

Under an agreement reached by Attorney General Mike Cox and



I'll just watch

Jackson Crandall, 2, watches through a living room window as his dad, Matt, removes snow from the sidewalk in front of their house in Sioux Falls, S.D.

three groups that filed suit, the abortion law was put on hold until June 15. It was scheduled to take effect March 30.

U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood approved the temporary restraining order Monday.

Cox spokeswoman Allison Pierce said the state needed more time to respond to the suit, which was filed March 1.

Suspect naps in car

MA QUINCY — It's never good to fall asleep on the job, but when you're a robber, the consequences can be severe.

Quincy police arrived at a CVS pharmacy early in the morning to find Steven Jakaitis, 42, sleeping in his idling car with a nylon stocking over his head and a cap pistol in his pocket.

By his side was a note that read: "I have a Gun DO NOT Press any Alarms or let Customers [sic] know Empty the All the register."

A customer called police after seeing Jakaitis, who was also wearing a black wig and a scarf. On the back seat of his car, officers found a plastic bag containing 36 unused hypodermic needles. He spoke incoherently after the officers woke him, Capt. Anthony DiBona said.

He never actually went into the store, police said.

Inmate powwows get OK

NE LINCOLN — Nebraska's American Indian inmates can have powwows, meet with medicine men and use a tobacco substitute during religious ceremonies under a federal court settlement.

The settlement, reached between the inmates and prison state officials last year, was approved by U.S. District Judge Warren Urbom.

The settlement grew from a complaint filed on behalf of some 200 American Indian inmates by Richard T. Walker, an Indian sentenced to life in prison in 1966 for murder.

Under the agreement, American Indian inmates can have two powwows a year and use traditional foods such as fry bread, corn and "berry dish" in their ceremonies.

Moms ordered to school

WV MOUNDSVILLE — A magistrate has ordered two mothers to attend school with their children who had too many unexcused absences.

Jennifer LaShare's 15-year-old son has missed school 34 days without an excuse. The boy was defiant in a hearing Thursday, saying he was going to leave school for good when he turns 16 in May.

April Wood's 13-year-old son also has had 34 unexcused absences.

Wood said she has no transportation and her son has been kicked off the bus for smoking a cigarette. "I'm not going to walk on the highway with my son" to school, Wood said.

Anderson also ordered Wood to attend school. Marshall County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney C. Richard Wilson said the school system might be asked to allow the boy to ride the bus with his mother.



Getting some exercise

Jenna Moodie, 9 from Weston, Fla., jumps over bars with her dog, Whoopie, an Irish water spaniel, in the large-dog section of a new dog park in Sunrise, Fla.



Battling the blaze

A firefighter looks into the sky at billowing smoke as he and others battle a blaze at a recycling business in Vinton, Texas.



A long way down

Phillip Boitano, a sophomore at Cardinal Newman High School, practices his dives at the Santa Rosa Junior College pool in Santa Rosa, Calif., as clouds from a late-winter weather front move in to northern California.



Car pool

Rob Barella and Adam Young of Powder Mill Towing, along with Parsippany (N.J.) Police officers David Cavaliere and Joseph Chmura, work to get a car out of a pool in Parsippany. The red Buick, which was parked at the Woroco gas station on Parsippany Road, slid down a hill behind the gas station and landed in a homeowner's pool. No one was injured.



Over the river and through the woods

Clover Hollow, near Newport, Va.

Snow covers the 1916 Newport covered bridge over Sinking Creek off Route 601 in

Drunk announcement

MN MOORHEAD — Having a vanity plate that reads “TIPSY” may not be such a great idea after all. Josiah Johnson, 23, said his license plate might have tipped off the Clay County sheriff's deputy who pulled him over Friday after he left Coach's Sports Pub in Moorhead.

Now he faces third-degree drunken driving charges after his blood-alcohol level allegedly registered twice the legal limit.

Johnson said he bought the personalized license plate for his Jeep to describe the way it rode — then kept it as a joke when he got a Chevy Silverado because he likes to party.

High price for speeding

VA OCCOQUAN — Floor it along a stretch of Interstate 95 and you may really regret it.

Starting Friday, motorists who drive recklessly in the area between Occoquan and Quantico face fines of up to \$2,500. Those caught speeding will see their fines doubled.

The high number of traffic fatalities along the 11-mile stretch in Prince William County has prompted the state to designate it a Highway Safety Corridor.

Police unveiled new black and white warning signs Tuesday that mark the area and warn drivers about the extra fines.

No Brotherly Love

PA PHILADELPHIA — Twenty-one slayings in eight days have authorities begging the public for help identifying the killers.

As of Tuesday morning, the homicide toll in Philadelphia stood at 76 so far this year, up from 66 at the same point last year, police said.

District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham on Monday vowed that her office would protect witnesses, even if it meant sending a moving van to their homes to take them to safety.

“We cannot only move you out of the city, we can move you across the state,” Abraham said.

Police have been on a campaign to persuade residents to cooperate with them since last year's death of a 10-year-old boy who was hit by a stray bullet during a shootout outside his school.

Girl Scouts robbed

OH COLUMBUS, Ohio — A group of Girl Scouts had a very unhappy encounter with a Cookie Monster.

The girls stood in disbelief as a man came to their cookie booth at a supermarket and ran off with an envelope containing \$320.

One of the five girls from Troop 4180 had recommended a box of Thin Mints when the man reached into the cash drawer and grabbed the envelope. An adult with the girls chased the thief but couldn't catch him.

The girls were working their stand inside a Kroger store about 2:30 p.m. Saturday when the man came by and said he'd never bought Girl Scout cookies. He handed one of the girls \$3, then said he wanted a second box but only gave her \$2 more.

When the girl pointed it out, the

man snatched the envelope.

Smith said the money would have paid for the girls to go to summer camp. Kroger employees took up a \$25 collection, but Smith said the girls won't sell from a booth anymore.

Crane experiment

FL TAMPA — An experiment-tal flock of whooping cranes has lost one of its youngest members to a Florida bobcat, but could be on the verge of producing chicks in the wild for the first time.

Six older cranes in the five-year effort to establish a migratory flock of the endangered birds between Wisconsin and Florida have formed into pairs and are being monitored closely for signs of nesting and breeding behavior, according to Operation Migration, the nonprofit group that has helped coordinate the project.

A Web update on the flock posted by Heather Ray, the group's director of operations, said a bobcat killed one of the cranes that were raised in Wisconsin last year — just as some of the other cranes have been beginning their flight north.

Woman dies at 110

VT BURLINGTON — Carolyn Eddy Drew, probably the oldest woman in Vermont, has died at the age of 110.

Drew worked at the Basin Harbor Club before World War I and married in 1917. Over 110th birthday in August, she dined on lobster.

Drew did not dwell much on her longevity, said her son, John Eddy. She spent little time reminiscing about the past or making much of a fuss about anything. Drew was born on Aug. 26, 1894, in North Elba, N.Y.

Who's child is it?

TX HOUSTON — A judge has ordered genetic tests to determine whether a woman's 2-year-old daughter was fathered by one of her teenage students.

Lisa Zuniga has admitted to having a sexual relationship with a 13-year-old boy who was a student at Victory Academy in Pasadena, where she worked as a teacher's aide.

The boy, who is now 16, and his mother are suing for custody of the toddler.

Zuniga, now 29, pleaded guilty to aggravated sexual assault of a child in January 2003 and was sentenced to deferred adjudication and 10 years' probation.

No paternity test was performed after the girl was born on Feb. 7, 2003, because of Zuniga's plea.

Booby-trapped trail

NH LYNDENBOROUGH — A teenage boy has been charged with booby-trapping a snowmobile trail last weekend by stringing fishing line across the trail at head height.

The youngster is charged with reckless conduct, but his mother said the incident has been blown out of proportion.

Sgt. H. Michael Geha said the charge would have been harsher, but no one was hurt. He said the youth's motivation seemed to be to cause trouble and did not seem to reflect problems with snowmobilers.

Stories and photos from wire services

Hand Horoscope

The week starts with the spring equinox, a celebration of nature's renewal and rebirth. The solar journey into Aries brings the day and night into perfect balance. Then, light overtakes the darkness little by little as each day progresses. Feminine and masculine energy find equilibrium, too, and men and women enjoy mutual respect.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

MARCH 20 You will it, and you become it. You can translate success in one area of your life to another in April. Steady gains in your career give you a well of confidence to draw from. Your property increases in value in June. Vacation is a sweetheart in August. Singles are introducing someone to the folks in the early summer. Sagittarius and Taurus are love signs.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Whatever your age, you feel a part of a new generation — fresh, full of ideas, and free of the cynicism that encumbers others. Friends remind you why you chose them in the first place.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Acknowledge those close to you, even if it seems unnecessary. Don't make the mistake of believing that a relationship, once established, will always be there even if you neglect it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Love is the last thing on your mind. But bring it to the front. Consider that romance needs equal parts breathing room and attentiveness. Too much of one or the other knocks the relationship off balance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

So much of what happens in your romantic situation is happening on an unconscious level. Sensitize yourself to subtleties that will clue you in to how to please your partner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

It's a brave day — you're not afraid of being the "bad guy." Your boundaries and expectations are very clear now. You know what you

need and can accurately assess who is able and willing to give that to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You are a complex creature. You can't expect everyone to understand you on every level, and some people may never "get" you. But that one kindred soul will be your rock. Trust the relationship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

23. You've had your doubts about your neighborhood lately, but when you go beyond the rift that there is a vibrant community out there, worthy of your active participation. Get involved.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You're too busy creating the life you want to notice that someone else is spinning away for you. There is romantic potential there. Still, be sure to see people for who they are and not for who you want them to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Projects are challenging. Don't worry about being correct so much as being passionate and committed. Strengthen your faith. All magic springs from your connection with the universal source.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

That all-consuming event or person in your life could take over if you're not careful. Don't forget your routines, your habits, your friends and the things you do to take care of your mind, body and spirit. It's still important.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You don't have a need for big drama, but someone close to you does. So when the "passion play" starts, view it with a sense of detached humor. Don't get sucked in. This is not reality.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You're trying to compromise, be compassionate and, of course, be tolerant. However, certain people can't help but push you to the limit — it's their nature. If it crosses your boundaries or hurts your feelings, just say "no way!"

Creators Syndicate

Chic is not always stylish

Dear Editor: I read that "chic" originally meant something different in French than it means now, and that the current French meaning was first used in English and then adopted as the French meaning too.

How and why did this happen? What was the original French meaning?

—F.P., Enfield, Conn.

Dear F.P.: The word "chic" has been used in French with a wide range of meanings since the late 18th century.

As a noun referring to a painter's technique, it often had a pejorative nuance and meant "facility bordering on the shallow."

As an adjective, it meant "stylish," and this is the sense that was borrowed into English in the middle of the 19th century.

It is conceivable that the English use may have helped to reinforce the meaning "stylish" for the word as used in French and to hasten the demise of the old painter's sense.

But we did not invent the meaning "stylish," and the French did not have to borrow it from us.

This column was prepared by the editors of the Concise Oxford Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Caring for demanding mother and rest of family too taxing

Dear Abby: My mother is 80 and still lives by herself.

She has had three strokes in the last two years, and her memory is very bad. She is also very stubborn and belligerent. She really belongs in an assisted-living facility, however, she refuses to go to one. She says she'll kill herself first.

I manage Mama's finances. I also make her doctor's appointments, transport her there, take her to the pharmacy, the grocery store, etc. I do all Mama's driving because she can't leave the block where she lives on without getting lost.

Everything depends on me for mother, and she hates my husband of 18 years, who treats her like gold. She never admit it, but she hates him because he's physically disabled and it keeps me from giving her all my time and attention.

Mama tries to make me feel guilty by acting like she's completely helpless. There are a lot of things she could do for herself, but she won't. I'm always stressed out over her, on top of the load I'm carrying with my husband and daughter. Have you any suggestions?

—Stressed to the Max in Tulsa

Dear Stressed: You are a con-

scientious, dutiful daughter. However, people can spread themselves only so thin without it beginning to affect their health.

If your mother's reasoning had not been already affected by dementia, she would realize that fact. The time has come to call her doctor and discuss what alternatives might be available in caring for her. Assisted living would be ideal, but only if she could adjust to it.

If it would be too traumatic, perhaps a part-time caregiver could be hired through senior services in your community.

Dear Abby: I was in a serious car accident back in 1986 and have been living with the physical scars ever since.

I hate the way I look and would like to see if a doctor can improve my appearance. The problem is, my husband doesn't want me to talk to a doctor.

Yes, I had the scars when I met my husband 15 years ago. I have lived with the deformities for a very long time. But not a day goes by that I don't think about how I could look if I had surgery to improve my appearance.

—Don't know if my insurance would cover the costs of surgery.



Dear Abby

Snoring could be bad for woman's health, family life

Dear Annie: My wife, "Sarah," and I had a wonderful life together and were very happy until she started snoring. I know it sounds crazy, but this has ruined our lives.

Sarah's snoring means she can't sleep through the night, and she's irritable in the morning. This loving, caring woman is now too tired for her usual daily routine.

She used to be full of life, but now she gets sleepy in the afternoons and doesn't have enough energy to pick up the kids from school or attend their after-school events.

Her snoring affects me as much as it does her. The noise keeps me up, and I, too, am not getting a full night's rest. I've started snapping at the kids and feel run-down all the time. Sarah and I have gone from having a wonderful, intimate sex life to sleeping in separate rooms, on opposite sides of the house.

I've spoken to her about seeing a doctor, but she's convinced her snoring is minor and thinks I should be able to live with it, like she does. She says she can't do anything about it.

I've read information from the

National Sleep Foundation (sleepfoundation.org) that says snoring can be a symptom of more serious problems, including sleep apnea, which can be dangerous and even life-threatening if not treated.

How do I convince Sarah that she needs help?

—Sleeping Beauty's Husband

Dear Husband: You are right to be concerned. Without treatment, sleep apnea can cause cardiovascular disease, memory problems, sexual dysfunction, weight gain and more, not to mention the possibility of Sarah having a car accident because she isn't completely awake. Insist that she talk to her doctor, or you will call the doctor's office yourself and pass along the information for her next checkup. If she won't do it for herself, ask her to do it for the well-being of your marriage and for your children.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from the parole officer who advised a woman to protect her granddaughter who was writing to inmates. Please continue to print letters on that theme, along with solid advice from experts who know the score.

but when it comes to my husband "needing" a baby, Jeep or snowmobile — or whatever suits his fancy at the time — money is never a problem.

I have money from the car accident, and if there were any costs for the surgery, it wouldn't have to come out of my husband's paycheck. I cannot expect you know I did feel about myself, but my husband does know. Do you think I should see a doctor to find out if surgery is an option for me, or should I just accept the way I am and not think about improving my appearance?

—Scarred and Confused in Philadelphia

Dear Scarred: By all means consult a plastic surgeon.

You deserve to be the best that you can be. However, when you do, please understand that it could change the dynamics of your relationship with your husband. It appears that he has a vested interest in keeping you just as you are, and the reason may be that he is afraid he will lose you if you look different. Some sessions with a marriage counselor might put his fears to rest. Much depends upon his own level of self-esteem.

Letters for this column — with your name and home number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Letters can't be addressed to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>

(A syndicated Press Syndicate)



Annie's Mailbox

I knew a nice, single woman who began exchanging letters with an inmate. Notice the use of the past tense. This woman thought she was being kind and helpful, and over a couple of years, a friendship developed. She eventually began to drive the prisoner to visit. The prisoner was charming and very upfront about his past. They fell in love. A year later, he was released, and she invited him to stay at her home.

She believed they would marry. Instead, she went through a brief and brutal period of abuse that ended in her death.

Please tell your readers who want to help these lonely men to work only through a strictly organized, well-established group, and never, ever, give out personal information.

A California Reader

Dear California: You may have saved a life by saving your horrifying story and warning your readers about the dangers of corresponding with inmates. Thank you.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Los Angeles column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@uepress.com or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

RELIGION

Group works to save church ruins

Effort focuses on Texas' Mission del Sagrado Corazon

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK
The Associated Press

RUIDOSA, Texas — Time, neglect and the unforgiving desert are threatening to devour a nearly century-old piece of Texas history. The Mission del Sagrado Corazon, the Sacred Heart Mission, is crumbling in remote desolation along the Rio Grande.

The deterioration accelerates each time a rainstorm sweeps across the normally parched region, washing away mud bricks used to make the building. Historical groups are rallying to save the abandoned Catholic church, where services last were held decades ago.

"It's been getting worse and worse," said Larry Oaks, executive director of the Texas Historical Commission. "At this stage of the game, probably a third of the building has literally melted into the landscape."

One of the two towers that flanked the entrance of the church is gone, toppled after a storm several years ago. What's left resembles a giant anthill.

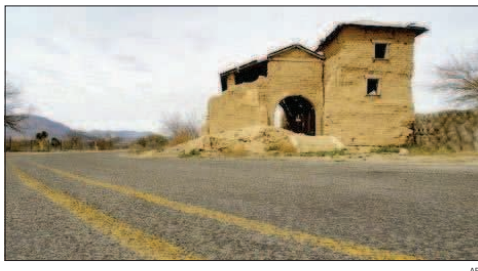
The distinctive arches — believed to be the largest round-structural adobe arches left in Texas — are still erect, the highest rising about 18 feet above the weed-covered dirt floor.

"It's just a grand and sort of monumental structure," Oaks said.

The church's question is can it stand without help. It's also unclear if help that's on the way will arrive in time.

"It's getting real close," says Pat Taylor, a Mesilla, N.M.-based adobe restoration specialist who has examined the church and has been advising officials. "There's a lot of water that's getting in and washing down the walls. It's definitely in trouble."

The \$44,000 raised so far is about three-fourths of the estimated cost for emer-



The Mission del Sagrado Corazon, in Ruidosa, Texas, stands in ruins along Texas State Highway 170. The church once had twin towers, but only one remains. The pile of mud debris from the collapsed tower can still be seen in front of the church.

gency work to stabilize the structure, Taylor said. The bulk of the money, however, is from a Texas Historical Commission grant that requires a local effort match the state funds. The commission speculates it could cost another \$250,000 to fully restore the mission as a tourist destination.

Many bricks on the arches are exposed, showing the skeletal work of the adobe masons who used round flat rocks as spacers to create the arches of sand and straw bricks when they built the church, around 1915.

"That building is really quite amazing," said Darlene Janar of Marfa, who has researched the history of the church. "It was built by volunteer labor by the people that lived there at the time. They cared that much. It was really a project of love."

At the time when the mission was built, farmers scraped out a living with the help of water from the Rio Grande. U.S. Army troops were stationed here as part of a border buildup during the Mexican Revolution. The remnants of the old outpost are nearby.

The church appears suddenly at the top of a rise and around a curve on Texas Farm Road 170, which parallels the winding Rio Grande. The Chinati Mountains lie to the east and the Sierra Madre towers from the west in Mexico. El Paso is 250 miles to the northwest.

Rusty Hill, 45, who runs the general store with his mother, said the restoration would be a boon to the community. "If everybody who came by to say a prayer and light a candle also stopped by and bought a Coke, it wouldn't hurt our business," he said.

It already attracts visitors. Celia Hill has a guest book in the store, and customers leave a pin on her world map if they're the first from their city or country to stop by.

"It's a great structure," Taylor said. "I work on these types of structures all the time and I never take them for granted. These structures represent a history, a time period, a people."

"And when a structure like this is lost, it's pretty much lost forever."

Donations may be made to the Ruidosa Mission Project, Presidio County Courthouse, P.O. Box 606, Marfa, Texas 79843

Nuns seek sainthood for lepers' savior

BY WILLIAM KATES
The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The Sisters of St. Francis are waiting on a miracle.

That's what it will take to bring sainthood to Franciscan Mother Marianne Cope, who abandoned the comfort of her Roman Catholic convent in upstate New York more than a century ago to help Hawaii's lepers, and left a legacy of schools, orphanages and hospitals.

"We can wait," said Sister Grace Anne Dillenschneider, assistant general minister of the Sisters of St. Francis. "We've waited all this time. We believe it's only a matter of time."

In December, Pope John Paul II accepted a report of one miracle attributed to the intervention of Mother Marianne. The case involved a Syracuse teenager who suffered multiple organ failure and recovered after she was touched by a relic of Mother Marianne and prayers were offered seeking the nun's intercession on the girl's behalf. Cope is expected to be beatified as "Blessed Mother Marianne" in a May 15 Mass at St. Peter's Square.

A second miracle attributed to her intercession is required for her to be canonized.

Mother Marianne was born Jan. 23, 1838, as Barbara Koob in Heppenheim, Germany, and moved to Utica, N.Y. in 1840. Her father supported the family of nine as a laborer. Cope took religious vows in 1863 with Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis and died in 1918 at age 80.

Different approaches made by Jars of Clay and Sonicflood

BY BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

Jars of Clay dug into the roots of Gospel music and found treasure.

The band that helped define Christian rock started by pouring out old hymnals, looking for lyrics with rich spiritual insight. They then wrote new melodies for obscure hymns and updated familiar standards.

The result, "Redemption Songs," which hits stores this week, proves that 2-century-old hymns and spirituals have plenty to say to 21st-century listeners.

One of the best of the recast songs is "God Will Lift Up Your Head," about the joy awaiting believers. It's a catchy track that relies on a simple beat and frontman Dan Haseltine's soaring vocals to propel its encouraging message. Another standout in this category is the more melodic "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand," which includes vocals by the Blind Boys of Alabama.

Undoubtedly, the more familiar tunes will resonate with many listeners. They include excellent renditions of "Nothing But the Blood," another collaboration with the Blind Boys, and "I'll Fly Away," which is accented by the voice of newcomer Sarah Kelly. While many of the disc's songs have a Southern or folk feel, "It Is Well" comes through with a mid-'60s flavor.

It's an interesting switch. The disc wraps up with a haunting version of "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love."

"Redemption Songs" succeeds on many levels but its most important achievement is making the richness and depth of traditional hymns accessible to a new audience by returning them for the modern ear.

The band can be found on the Web: www.jarsofclay.com

While Jars of Clay is drawing inspiration from past generations, the new disc by Sonicflood is firmly focused on this genera-

tion.

The band's "This Generation" — released March 8 — offers several high-energy songs that are certain to be popular at modern worship services. The disc's first single, "Your Love Goes On Forever," popped up to 20 on Billboard's Christian adult contemporary chart last week and has been climbing the R&R radio chart.

Though some of the lyrics aren't particularly deep, especially when compared with the spiritual insights contained in "Redemption Songs," they are quite singable. At a Virginia concert just before the CD's release, the new songs captured the crowd despite their unfamiliarity.

The title track offers hard-edged rock as it calls worshippers to praise. Frontman Rick Heil's voice is plaintive in "All I've Failed to Be," which asks, "Take me Lord. Make me whole." "Prodigal" offers a similar theme, stating, "Mold me and make me. Let me fall into your arms of love again." "You Are" is an exuberant praise of Jesus. "Never Forget You" is an asser-



INO Records

Sonicflood — from left, Trey Hill, Chris Kimmerer, Rick Heil, Grant Norsworthy and Jordan Jameson — released their latest CD, "This Generation," on March 8.

tive take on Psalm 103.

It's little wonder that Heil seems to focus on being remade. He recently revealed that doctors had discovered that he had been healed of Crohn's disease, a debilitating intestinal condition that is normally permanent.

The disc also represents a new incarnation of Sonicflood, with

only Heil returning from previous efforts. However, the new crew seems to be a good fit.

The band can be found on the Web: www.sonicflood.com

Today's Praise is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry. It appears in the right margin.

E-mail Brian Bowers at: bowersb@stripes.osd.mil

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

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Q Miranda Lambert's single "Me and Charlie Talking" was No. 1 on the country charts here for weeks. What can you tell me about her? — Rachel T., Austin, Texas

A After finishing third on Austin Network's "Nashville Star," the Texas native was signed by Sony. For her CD "Kerosene," released last week, Lambert wrote all but one song. "I'm just 21," she tells us, "but my parents are private investigators, and I've seen a lot of reality. Relationships inspire my work."

Q When will we hear wedding bells for Derek Jeter and new gal pal Stacy Lynn Spierer? — Brady Katz, Brooklyn, N.Y.

A Put away the rice. Jeter, 30, is known for loving and leaving 'em. The Yankee slugger's exes include pop diva Mariah Carey, 34; video jockey Vanessa Minnillo, 24; and actress Jordana Brewster, 24. Our advice to Spierer, 27, who has appeared in minor TV and film roles: Don't give up your day job.

Q You asked readers who should play Michael Ovitz in the Showtime movie "Two Blind Mice." What was the result? — C. Denton, Harrisburg, Pa.

A Several suggested Treat Williams, who did a superb job as Ovitz in "The Late Shift." Others voted for Greg Kinnear, Anthony Heald, William H. Macy and David Hyde Pierce. Our pick as Ovitz, once Hollywood's most powerful man: Jon Voight.

Q Who's the "Laney" Eminem mentions in his song "Mockingbird"? — Shannon Dowdie, Burnt Hills, N.Y.

A His niece, Alaina, 8. The rap star has custody of her and joint custody of his own daughter, Hailie, 9. He says the song — with lines like "ma-ma's always in the news" and "daddy's with you" — is meant for both of them. We think Eminem, 32, is trying to promote himself as a great dad while undermining the girls' mothers: his ex-wife Kim and her twin sister, Dawn.

Q Who's that brainy blonde with Ron Reagan on MSNBC's new show, "Connected Coast to Coast"? — Elaine Lombardo, Middleton, Mass.

A She's Monica Crowley, 36, a Columbia University Ph.D. who was former President Nixon's assistant on international affairs from 1990 until his death in 1994. Crowley began her broadcast career as a conservative commentator at WABC radio in 1996 and later joined Fox News. "I left for a chance to do a new kind of talk show: thoughtful, civilized debate," she says. MSNBC's gain is Fox's loss.

Q As a veteran, I'm curious about Johnny Carson's Navy career. What ship? — Dave Graham, San Diego, Calif.

A The Nebraska native enlisted in 1943 at 18 and served as an ensign on the battleship USS Pennsylvania. While on board, Johnny entertained his shipmates and honed his talents as a magician and comedian. He was discharged from the Navy in 1946.

Q I was surprised to hear on the History Channel that Lincoln's son Willie died of pneumonia. I thought he died of blood poisoning. — Diana Lomosad, Sacramento, Calif.

A It was Tad who probably died of pneumonia — in 1871 at age 18. Willie died in 1862 at 11 from what historians believe was typhoid fever. The Lincoln who may have had blood poisoning was the President's grandson, Abraham Lincoln II (known as Jack), who died in 1890 at 16. Incidentally, a new Lincoln museum opens this spring in Springfield, Ill. Visit www.alplm.org to learn more.

Q I was disappointed to hear that the Russell Crowe-Nicole Kidman film "Eucalyptus" was postponed due to script problems. Will it resume? — Sam Roberts, Portland, Maine

A We doubt it. Our Australian sources say the cancellation had nothing to do with the script — by director Jocelyn Moorhouse, who helped launch Crowe's film career with 1991's "Proof" — and everything to do with Crowe being difficult. Kidman is said to be devastated, and the Aussie film industry has lost millions. Friends warn Russell that top directors may scratch him from their casting sheets.

Q What do you make of TV Land's reality series with Farrah Fawcett, starting this Wednesday? — Chris C. Joplin, Mo.

A We can't wait. If the 58-year-old ex-pinup acts as weird as she did on her infamous guest appearance with David Letterman in 1997, "Chasing Farrah" should be the funniest show since "Seinfeld."

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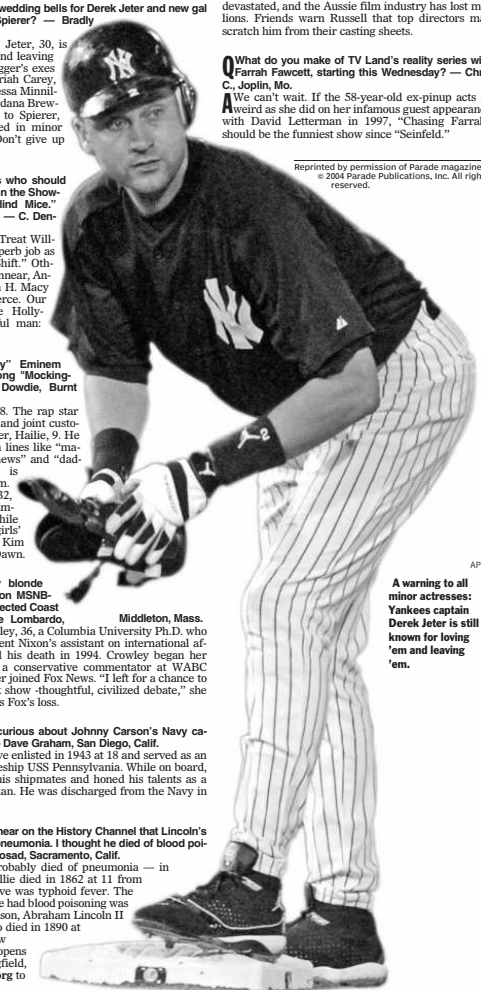
ART

Stop us if you've heard this one before: Russell Crowe's selfishness affects all those around him — in this case, fellow Australian Nicole Kidman and director Jocelyn Moorhouse, who helped launch Crowe's career.



AP

Eminem loves two little ladies — his niece and daughter — but has less public affection for their mommies.



AP

A warning to all minor actresses: Yankees captain Derek Jeter is still known for loving 'em and leaving 'em.

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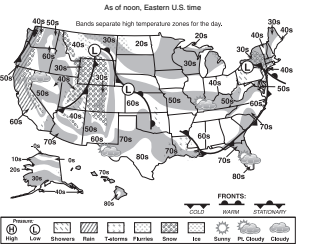
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Parker provides push as Spurs clinch playoff spot

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Tony Parker quashed whatever hopes the Charlotte Bobcats had for a highly unlikely upset.

Parker scored 24 points, half of them in the decisive third quarter of San Antonio's 93-76 victory over the Bobcats on Friday night, clinching a spot in the Western Conference playoffs for the Spurs.

"Tony's energy was great all night," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "He pushed the ball, he moved the ball. His aggressive-ness set a tone."

After trailing by 10 at halftime,



Roundup

Charlotte got its deficit down to 60-54 midway through the third on a jumper by Emeke Okafor. But the Bobcats went scoreless and committed six turnovers during the final 6:05 of the quarter.

"Every time you make a move, somebody is there," Charlotte's Primoz Brezec said of San Antonio's defense. "They put pressure on your first pass. There are no easy shots."

Parker shot 6-for-8 in the third

period, which ended with a 12-0 run by San Antonio. Parker scored three of those six baskets and assisted on two others.

"We decided to play a little more defense," Parker said of the third-quarter lockdown. "I had some good looks because we were pushing them on the pick-and-rolls."

San Antonio's lead widened to as many as 23 points in the fourth.

Tim Duncan added 19 points for the Spurs, while Devin Brown had 15 and Horry Horry 11.

The Spurs, playing their fifth straight game without injured swingman Manu Ginobili, im-

proved their NBA-leading record to 50-15.

They are 31-3 at home, also best in the league.

The loss was the ninth straight for the Bobcats and their 18th in 20 games. They are 2-30 on the road.

Brezec led Charlotte with 18 points, and Jason Hart and Melvin Ely each scored 10. Okafor, the team's top scorer with 15-point average per game, finished with 7 points on 3-for-13 shooting and had 12 rebounds.

Charlotte shot 37.3 percent (28-for-75).

The Bobcats went up 13-9 on a three-pointer by Jason Kapono be-

fore a short turnaround jumper by Duncan started an 11-3 run that put the Spurs ahead by four late in the first quarter.

Teers 93, Cavaliers 81: At Cleveland, Allen Iverson tore the bandage off his chipped thumb and scored 31 points, and Chris Webber added 14 — including a three-pointer to start Philadelphia's game-ending 16-2 push.

Nets 94, Jazz 80: At East Rutherford, N.J., Vince Carter scored 10 of his 23 points in the pivotal third quarter, and Jason Kidd had 10 points, nine assists and eight rebounds. Both sat out the fourth quarter with the Nets firmly in command.

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Congress threatens to take action on steroids issue

McGwire's reputation takes a beating day after repeated refusal to answer questions

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A day after the big hearing on steroids in baseball, several members of congress threatened federal legislation to cure the ills they saw. It remains unclear whether Mark McGwire's reputation can be restored.

The head of the World Anti-Doping Agency called McGwire's evasions during Thursday's testimony tantamount to an admission of steroid use.

A congressman at the hearing in Washington wants McGwire's name removed from a highway. Even McGwire's former manager, Tony La Russa, was surprised by McGwire's repeated refusals to deny using steroids.

"I think it would have been a lot better for him to say, 'I did it and I'm sorry,'" former baseball commissioner Fay Vincent said.

McGwire has denied using illegal performance-enhancing drugs but refused to do so under oath when he appeared before the House Government Reform Committee, citing advice from his lawyer.

"What I saw and heard was a confession," WADA chairman Richard Pound said Friday during a

symposium at Saint Louis University on doping in sports.

Committee member Christopher Shays, a Connecticut Republican, put it bluntly Friday: "Is there any doubt in your mind that Mark McGwire took drugs?"

La Russa, who managed McGwire on the Oakland Athletics and the Cardinals, said he believes McGwire's denials.

"In my opinion, being under oath wouldn't have changed what he said," La Russa said in Jupiter, Fla.

"I think he was overcoached. Mostly, I think it was a missed opportunity to explain that if you use substances like creatine and over-the-counter stuff that's not illegal, you can get the benefits of a hard-core weight training program. And that was never discussed."

U.S. Rep. William Lacy Clay, a Missouri Democrat, wants McGwire's name stripped off the 5-mile stretch of Interstate-70 that was named after Big Mac following his 70-homer season in 1998.

"It would take an act by the state legislature, but I don't think he deserves a name on the highway if he can't be forthcoming about his involvement with this issue," Clay told The Associated Press on Friday.

Alomar retires; Schilling to miss opener

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Roberto Alomar, a 12-time All-Star who signed with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays with hopes of playing one final season, retired Saturday.

Alomar's announcement came one day after he committed two errors in one inning of a spring training game. The 37-year-old Alomar has been bothered by back and vision problems in recent weeks.

"I played a lot of games and I said I would never embarrass myself on the field," Alomar said. "I had a long career, but I can't play at the level I want to play, so it's time to retire."

This would have been the 18th major league season for Alomar, who also played for San Diego, Toronto, Baltimore, Cleveland, the New York Mets, Arizona, and the Chicago White Sox.

Trying to reach 3,000 hits and end his stellar career on a high note after a swift decline the past three seasons, Alomar agreed to a \$600,000, one-year contract with the Devil Rays in January. The team penciled him in as the

everyday second baseman and No. 2 hitter.

A 10-time Gold Glove winner and career .300 hitter, Alomar is 276 hits shy of 3,000. He was an All-Star from 1991-2001 but has struggled while batting .266, .258 and .263 the past three years.

Also Saturday, Tampa Bay right fielder Danny Bautista, who hit .286 with 11 homers and 65 RBIs last season, announced his retirement.

In other news:

■ Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling will miss Opening Day, setting up David Wells to start against his former team, the New York Yankees.

Boston manager Terry Francona made the announcement Saturday and said Schilling might sit out the first two weeks.

Schilling, coming back from ankle surgery last November, will make his first start of spring training in a minor league game on Monday and there was no word on when he would pitch against a major league opponent.

There even was a possibility Schilling would open the season

on the disabled list since the Red Sox have three days off in the first 10 days and won't need a fifth starter until their 13th game, at home against Toronto on April 18.

"We're going to have a four-man rotation through the 18th," Francona said.

Schilling has said his ankle and arm aren't bothering him. But his mechanics aren't back to their pre-surgery level.

Wells will pitch opening night in Yankee Stadium on April 3.

Schilling pitched in Game 6 of last year's AL championship series against New York and Game 2 of the World Series against St. Louis after a tendon that had been slipping out of place in his right ankle was sutured to the skin. He won both and Boston went on to sweep St. Louis.

■ At Kissimmee, Fla., Roger Clemens strained his right hamstring and lost Houston's 13-3 loss to the Detroit Tigers after only 1 1/2 innings. He is day-to-day.

■ At Peoria, Ariz., Jake Peavy strained his groin during the San Diego Padres' 4-2 victory over the Texas Rangers and could be out for two weeks.



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Perry leads by one midway at Bay Hill

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Kenny Perry kept the ball out of the rough and close to the hole, making five birdies during a six-hole stretch Saturday morning that gave him a 4-under 68 and a one-shot lead in the Bay Hill Invitational when the second round ended.

Thick rough and slow greens have befuddled the best players, making scores the highest they have been at Bay Hill in a dozen years. Perry was at 6-under 138, making him the halfway leader for the first time since he won the Memorial two years ago.

"I'm starting to hit my iron close to the hole," Perry said.

He had a one-shot lead over Charles Howell III and Stephen Ames, who played 36 holes Friday in a tournament that has been out of whack since an eight-hour rain delay on Thursday.

What of the Big Three?

Vijay Singh, who can return to No. 1 in the world this week by winning, also played 36 holes Friday and shot 72-68, highlighted by a 9-iron he holed from 152 yards on No. 8 that left him two shots out of the lead.

Tiger Woods and Ernie Els started their second round Saturday morning. Woods made a few sloppy mistakes in a round of 70 that left him three shots behind. Els twice hit into the water and once hit out of bounds, matching his career high at Bay Hill with a 77. Els barely made the cut.

Perry nearly had some company at the top.

K.J. Choi was at 7-under and playing the easiest hole at Bay Hill, but he hit his approach into the water on the par-5 16th and took bogey. Still tied for the lead, he had a calamitous end to his second round.

He got his approach into the bunker on the 18th, facing a downhill shot to the pin with water on the other side. Choi got too delicate with his shot and left it in the sand, blasted out to 12 feet and missed to end with a double bogey. He wound up with a 70 and joined Singh and Sergio Garcia (70) at 140, two out of the lead.

Ochoa leads Sorenstam by two

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — Lorena Ochoa shot 5-under 67 to take a two-shot lead in the Safeway International, with Annika Sorenstam three strokes behind and Michelle Wie lurking.

Ochoa, the 23-year-old Mexican star who was the LPGA Tour's rookie of the year two seasons ago, had a 12-under 132 total.

Soo-Yun Kang was second after a 66, and Sorenstam, the defending champion, was 8-under after a 69. Si-Yu Ai Lim, who shared the first-round lead with Ochoa, was 7-under after a 72, with Grace Park (67) and Karen Stapples (71) at 6-under.

Candie Kung (70) and Juli Inkster (73) were next at 5-under 139, and the 15-year-old Wie followed

her opening 73 with a 67 to join a foursome at 4-under.

Morgan's 65 paces seniors

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Gil Morgan shot 6-under 65 for a one-stroke lead over Tom Jenkins and Wayne Levi in the first round of the Toshiba Senior Classic.



Lorena Ochoa of Mexico hits a tee shot on the sixth hole during Friday's second round of the LPGA's Safeway International at Superstition Mountain, Ariz. Ochoa shot a 67 Friday and completed two rounds at 12-under 132, two strokes ahead of Soo-Yun Kang. Defending champion Annika Sorenstam was three shots behind after shooting a 69.

AP

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MILITARY SALES



Heidelberg takes two vs. Hanau

Stars and Stripes

At least as far as Heidelberg and Hanau are concerned, there's a bit of a gap between Division I and II softball.

The Lady Lions, behind the pitching of Brittany Clark and Ashley Hamre, swept Hanau of

High school softball

Division II 15-0 and 21-1 Saturday in Hanau, Germany, in the opener for both teams.

Brittany Clark struck out 12 and held Hanau to three hits in the first game. She was backed by three hits and three RBIs by Lindsay Clark and two hits and two RBIs each by Hamre and Jessica Anderson.

In the second game, Hope Fother's home run saved Hanau from a second straight shutout. The rest of the way, it was all Heidelberg. Hamre struck out six batters and Lindsay Clark collected three hits and three RBIs. Sam Lane also had three hits for Heidelberg.

Hanau is idle until it opens its Division II season April 2 at Bitburg. Heidelberg opens Division I play Saturday at Würzburg. In other games Saturday:

Bitburg, Ramstein split: At Ramstein, Germany, two walks and a passed ball produced the winning run in the eighth inning as the Bitburg Lady Barons of Division II upset defending European Division I champion Ramstein 4-3.

Bitburg's All-Europe second-teamer Ashley Kazimer went the distance for the victory, allowing seven hits and striking out six. She also had two hits and scored two runs.

The loss went to All-Europe first-teamer Victoria Apodaca, a senior, who allowed five hits and struck out nine.

Ramstein tied the game with a three-run sixth inning, but was unable to threaten afterward.

"We hit the ball all over the place, but we couldn't seem to score," Ramstein coach Kent Gschuesch said.

The Lady Royals scored plenty in the second game, a victory that went to freshman Jessica Apodaca. She struck out seven.

Jessica Renaud took the loss for Bitburg, which got a 3-for-3 effort from Amber Zagon.

Next up for Ramstein is a home doubleheader Saturday against Lakenheath, the only team other than Ramstein to win Division I European titles since the school system began offering softball in 1999. Ramstein won the first year and Lakenheath took the next four titles before Ramstein broke through again in 2004.

Bitburg, which won every European Division II championship between 2000 and 2003, hosts Lakenheath on Friday. The Lady Barons host London Central, the European Division III champ, on April 1 before opening their Division II schedule against visiting Hanau on April 2.



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden defenders form a wall against a free kick during their 1-0 loss to Ramstein on Saturday in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Aviano boys, girls victorious in openers

Stars and Stripes

One reigning champion won and another lost Saturday when Aviano's boys and girls opened their high school soccer seasons Saturday at the American Overseas School of Rome.

In both cases, the winner was Aviano's girls, the defending Division III champions, romped past AOSR 7-0 for their 16th straight victory.

Then, Steven Hudson turned a pass from Angel Santana into the game-winning goal midway through the second half as Aviano's boys, in their debut under coach Steve Stanley, defeated two-time defending Division III champion AOSR 3-2.

Despite giving up an own-goal, the Aviano boys led 2-1 at half-time on goals by Junior Valek, assisted by Hudson, and Ricardo Anzoategui, assisted by Blake Cain.

AOSR tied the game after half-time, finally getting a shot past Aviano's Brian Bell, but Santana set up Hudson with the go-ahead goal and Bell shut down AOSR.

In the less-dramatic girls game, Aviano freshman Anna Schrader scored three times in her varsity debut, while Rebecca Breedlove had two goals as an assist. Ashley Lynch scored twice.

Aviano keeper Ingrid Batteng stopped a penalty kick in the first half. Both Aviano teams return home Saturday to host Signella for the second date of a four-week, pre-holiday-break schedule that will go a long way toward determining the success of Aviano's regular seasons. After Signella, Aviano plays at Naples on April 2 and then the boys host perennial power Milan on April 7.

DODDS soccer

In other games on Saturday's light schedule:

ISB, Lakenheath split: At RAF Lakenheath, England, Paula Oliveira scored two goals as the International School of Brussels shut out Lakenheath 2-0 in a non-conference game between Division I foes.

Oliveira, assisted by Frances Kershaw, slipped her first goal past Lakenheath keeper Megan Rabon 6-48 into the 33rd minute to beat Rabon again.

Lakenheath, with Josee Perez controlling midfield play, registered 13 shots on goal to seven for ISB. But the Lancers found the defense of Lydia Gray, Daria Rouhalamin and Megan Gibson and the goaltending of Sophia Hesham too effective to allow them to finish.

In the boys game, goals by Michael Esquitin, Bryce Watkins



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Ramstein's Adam Rasmussen hits a header during the Royals' 4-2 victory over Wiesbaden in Wiesbaden, Germany, on Saturday.

and Matt Trombly paced the Lancers to a 3-1 nonconference victory.

Both ISB teams open their Division I seasons Saturday at Wiesbaden; Lakenheath is idle until the boys and girls host Würzburg for Division I games on April 2.

Ramstein sweeps Wiesbaden:

At Wiesbaden, Dorothy Stern put an unassisted second-half goal past Wiesbaden keeper Caitlin Watson to fuel a 1-0 nonconference victory for Ramstein's Lady Royals.

The game preceded a 4-2 victory by the Ramstein boys over 2004 Division I runner-up Wiesbaden. It was made possible by two goals by Tommy Appel-Schumacher and goals by Jason Pollock and Dan Whitney.

According to Wiesbaden coach Ben Arcila, both teams used this nonconference game as a chance to experiment heavily with players and combinations. Despite that, All-Europe goalkeeper Dan Parker flashed his form by saving a penalty kick, and mainstay Matt Alexander scored both Wiesbaden goals.

Wiesbaden's boys and girls host ISB on Saturday in the Division I openers for both schools.

The Ramstein boys don't play again until they host eight-time defending European Division I champion Heidelberg on April 2. The Lady Royals next host four-time defending champion Heidelberg on April 2.

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High school soccer

Boys
Aviano 1, ASDR 2
 (Saturday at American Overseas School of Rome)
Halftime—Aviano 2, ASDR 1
 Goals-Aviano: Steven Hudson, Junior Valez, Riccardo Anzotegui; ASDR: Aviano own goal, unavailable.
Assists—Avi: Hudson, Blake Cain, Angel Santana; ASDR: Unavailable.
Saves—Aviano (Brian Bell) unavailable; ASDR: Unavailable.

Networthy—Aviano traveled just 15 players, starting 11 played most of game, according to coach Steve Starlin.

Nonconference
Ramstein 4, Wiesbaden 2
 (Saturday at Wiesbaden)
Halftime—Ramstein 2, Wiesbaden 0
 Goals-Rams: Tommy Agost Schumacher 2, Jason Pollock, Dan Whitney; Wies: Matt Alexander 2.

Assists—Unavailable.
Saves—Unavailable.

Lakenheath 3, ISB 1
 (Saturday at Lakenheath)
Halftime—0-0
 Goals-Isb: Tristan Denik; Lake: Michael Eschott, Bryce Watkins, Matt Trombly.
Assist—Lake: Chris Perez.

Saves—International School of Brussels unavailable; Lakenheath (Tyler Kettel) 4.

Boys
Aviano 1, ASDR 0
 (Saturday at American Overseas School of Rome)

Halftime—Aviano 0, ASDR 0
 Goals-Avian: Schrader 3, Rebecca Breedlove 2, Ashley Lynn 1.
Saves—Unavailable.
Networthy—Game called in second half due to DODOS Europe's seven-goal country rule.

Milan 1, Vicenza 0
 (Saturday at Vicenza)
Goal—Unavailable.
Saves—Milan unavailable; Vicenza (Sarah Malone) 14.

Networthy—Savannah Sessions was credited with playing outstanding defense for Vicenza.

Nonconference
Ramstein 1, Wiesbaden 0
 (Saturday at Wiesbaden)

Halftime—0-0
Goal—Dorothy Stern.
Assist—None.

Saves—Ramstein (Dallas Norman) 8; Wiesbaden (Caitlin Watson) 11.

Networthy—Ramstein coach Ricardo Bardoza praised the play of Norman and forward Susie Flucker, Bethany Fountain and Sarah Rademeyer played well in Wiesbaden's defense, according to coach Jim Campbell.

JV Ramstein 1, Wiesbaden 0.



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Ramstein's Josh Wesloski, left, and Wiesbaden's Collin Limes battle for the ball during a DODOS-Europe high school soccer opener at Wiesbaden, Germany. Ramstein defeated Wiesbaden 4-2.

ISB 1, Lakenheath 0

(Saturday at Lakenheath)

Halftime—Unavailable.
Goals—Paula Oliveira 2.
Assist—Frances Marshaw.
Saves—International School of Brussels (Sophia Hestham) 6; Lakenheath (Megan Rabson) 9.

Networthy—Defensive effort of Lydia Grey, Daria Boubalamin and Megan Gibson facilitated Helmsch's shutout goaltending. Brittany Watkins and Jose Perez stood out for Lakenheath.

High school tennis

(Individual forfeits not listed)

Aviano 4, ASDR 0
 (Saturday at American Overseas School of Rome)

Girls
 Eliana Sheets (Avi) def. Seel Erdal 6-0, 6-2; Samantha Cordova (Avi) def. Elizaveta Ignatova 3-1; Ashley Mead and Kimberly Berry (Avi) def. Jasia Volk and Stephanie Panzer 4-6, 6-1; Gina Andreucci and Alexa Blake (ASDR) def. Jessica Sheets and Angie Martinec (Avi) 9-1.

Boys
 Mikael Fair (Avi) def. Brennan Panzerella 6-4, 6-4; Fair def. Jorge Ferrero 8-2 (exhibition); Taykan Erdal and David Ibrahim (ASDR) def. Jordan Kelsey and Anthony Young 6-2, 7-4; (7-4); Shankar Kir and Jacob Kercy (ASDR) def. Joseph Meade and Kenny Percy 8-2.

Milan 6, Vicenza 0
 (Saturday at Vicenza; some first names unavailable)

Girls
 Shilvani Sazena (Mil) def. Rachel Bryan 6-0, 6-1; Desant and Bellemo (Mil) def. Brown and Draper 6-0, 6-0; Piccinetti and Carini (Mil) def. Ham and McLean 6-0, 6-0.

Boys
 None.

Military basketball

2005 USAFCE championships

RAF Mildenhall, England—First-day results Saturday in the 2005 USAFCE men's and women's basketball tournaments. All-day events which end Wednesday. Top two teams of each sex advance to Army-Air Force Final Four tournament March 31-April 2 at Bamberg, Germany.

Men
Saturday's results
 Ramstein 87, Lakenheath 75
 Aviano 88, Spangdahlem 79
 Mildenhall 80, Incirlik 65.

Sunday's games
 Lakenheath vs. Aviano, late
 Mildenhall vs. Ramstein, noon
 Lakenheath vs. Incirlik, 5 p.m.

Monday's games
 Incirlik vs. Spangdahlem, 10 a.m.
 Mildenhall vs. Ramstein, 4 p.m.
 Ramstein vs. Aviano, 8 p.m.

Tuesday's games
 Spangdahlem vs. Ramstein, 10 a.m.
 Lakenheath vs. Mildenhall, noon
 Aviano vs. Incirlik, 2 p.m.

Wednesday's game
 Championship, noon.

Women
Saturday's results
 Spangdahlem vs. Aviano, late
 Ramstein vs. Mildenhall, late
 Aviano vs. Ramstein, 4 p.m.

Monday's games
 Spangdahlem vs. Ramstein, noon
 Mildenhall vs. Aviano, 2 p.m.

Tuesday's games
 No games scheduled.
Wednesday's game
 Championship, 10 a.m.

Slutskaya wins gold in skating's worlds

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Irina Slutskaya won the gold medal for the second time in the world championships Saturday, combining strength and style to cap an extraordinary season in which she prevailed despite a heart ailment and knee injury.

The Russian delivered a draining and dramatic program that featured seven clean triples to the delight of the home crowd.

"I'm happy because it's so difficult to come back so many times, to suffer so many misfortunes," said Slutskaya, who missed the 2003 worlds because of her ailing mother.

Sasha Cohen of the United States won the silver medal for the second straight year, and Carolina Kostner of Italy took the bronze. Michelle Kwan, the five-time world champion, was fourth, the first time since 1996 the American finished a worlds without a medal.

"I can leave Moscow satisfied, but disappointed, satisfied — kind of a roller-coaster ride to be not as satisfied as I wanted it to be," Kwan said.

Davenport beats Sharapova

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — Lindsay Davenport

beat Maria Sharapova 6-3, 6-4 in the Wimbledon championship Saturday. Sharapova, the 19-year-old Russian, 6-0, 6-0 in Friday's semifinals of the Pacific Life Open.

The match lasted 49 minutes.

Earlier in the afternoon, Andre Agassi pulled out of his quarterfinal against Lleyton Hewitt because of a sore and swollen toe. It was the first time the 34-year-old Agassi could not take the court for a scheduled match in his career — 1,092 matches.

In a night match, Andy Roddick moved into the semifinals with a 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-1 victory over Carlos Moya in a duel of former No. 1 players.

Roddick served 13 aces and was deadly at the net, volleying for 30 points on the way to the win over his Spanish opponent. Moya had five aces and won 21 points at the net.

Roddick faces Hewitt in one semifinal Saturday, and No. 1 Roger Federer plays Guillermo Canas in the other.

Kim Clijsters, the 2003 champion, faces Davenport in the women's final Saturday. Former No. 1 Clijsters defeated Elena Dementieva 6-4, 6-2 in their semifinal.

As Sharapova failed to win a single game for the first time as a pro, she spent much of the match spraying groundstrokes outside the lines — at times by several feet — or hitting the ball into the net.

The loss was only her second in 19 matches this year.

Jets trade LB Cowart to Vikings for draft pick

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — The New York Jets traded middle linebacker Sam Cowart to the Minne-

Sports briefs

sota Vikings on Friday for a seventh-round pick in this year's draft.

Cowart saw his playing time diminish in 2004 after a knee injury knocked him out for an extended period and rookie Jonathan Vilma emerged as a standout player. After the season, Cowart asked for a trade when it became clear he wouldn't have much of a role with the Jets.

The Vikings have been busy upgrading their defense in the offseason, signing linebacker Napoleon Harris, safety Darren Sharper, cornerback Fred Smoot and Williams in the past three weeks. Including Cowart, the five players bring a combined 339 NFL starts, 57 interceptions, 32 sacks and have played in three Pro Bowls.

Sonics lose valuable forward Radmanovic for 4-6 weeks

SEATTLE — Vladimir Radmanovic is a valuable reserve forward for the Northwest Division-leading Seattle SuperSonics, has a stress fracture in his right leg and will be out 4 to 6 weeks.

Radmanovic, 24, will first be placed in a cast and then a walking boot. The injury is expected to heal without surgery.

The Sonics placed him on the injured list Friday and activated forward Damien Wilkins, who was on the injured list with right knee patella tendinitis.

Radmanovic, 24, has been promoted by the Sonics as a contender for the NBA's Sixth Man Award. He showed up Friday night in the Seattle dressing room with his right leg in a cast before the Sonics' game against Orlando.

Wife of Pistons' Ham arrested in domestic assault case

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — The wife of Detroit Pistons forward Darvin Ham was arrested early Friday on a domestic assault charge, authorities said.

Deputies took her into custody under a Michigan law allowing a police officer to make an arrest if the officer has reasonable cause to believe an assault has taken place.

DeNetra Ham was arraigned later Friday on a charge of domestic abuse and was released on a personal bond, local authorities said.

Misdemeanor domestic violence is punishable by up to 93 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

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Georgia Tech's Jarrett Jack (3) takes control of a loose ball against George Washington.

Men's NCAA tournament

OPENING ROUND

Tuesday, March 15

Oakland, Minn. 75, Alabama 68

SYRACUSE REGIONAL

First Round

Friday, March 18

North Carolina State 75, Charlotte 63

Connecticut 77, Central Florida 71

Iowa State 64, Minnesota 33

North Carolina 55, Oakland, Mich. 68

Florida 67, Ohio 62

Villanova 55, New Mexico 47

Wisconsin 57, Northern Iowa 52

Bucknell 64, Kansas 63

Second Round

Sunday, March 20

Connecticut vs. North Carolina State

North Carolina vs. Iowa State

Florida vs. Villanova

Bucknell vs. Wisconsin

Seminals

Friday, March 25

N. Carolina/Iowa St. vs. Florida/Villanova

UConn/N.C. State vs. Bucknell/Wisconsin

Sunday, March 27

Championship

CHICAGO REGIONAL

First Round

Thursday, March 17

Wisconsin/Illinois 65, Pennsylvania 65

Nevada 61, Texas 57

Illinois 67, Fairleigh Dickinson 55

Arizona 66, Utah State 53

Alabama/Birmingham 68, LSU 68

Friday, March 18

Oklahoma State 63, St. Louis 50

Southern Illinois 65, Saint Mary's, Calif. 55

Second Round

Sunday, March 19

Boston College vs. Wisconsin/Milwaukee

Illinois vs. Nevada

Arizona vs. Alabama/Birmingham

Sunday, March 19

Oklahoma State vs. Southern Illinois

Seminals

Thursday, March 24

Illinois/Nevada vs. Boston College/Wisconsin

Milwaukee vs. Nevada

Oklahoma St./So. Illinois vs. Arizona/Utah

Saturday, March 26

Championship

AUSTIN REGIONAL

First Round

Thursday, March 17

Kentucky 72, Eastern Kentucky 64

Cincinnati 76, Iowa 61

Oklahoma 84, Niagara 67

Utah 60, Texas 56

Friday, March 18

Vermont 60, Syracuse 57, overtime

Michigan 81, Old Dominion 61

Duke 57, Delaware State 46

Mississippi St. 59, Stanford 50

Second Round

Saturday, March 19

Kentucky vs. Cincinnati

Oklahoma vs. Utah

Vermont vs. Michigan State

Duke vs. Mississippi State

Seminals

Friday, March 25

Duke/Miss. St. vs. Vermont/Michigan St.

Kentucky/Cincinnati vs. Oklahoma/Utah

Sunday, March 27

Championship

ALBUQUERQUE REGIONAL

First Round

Thursday, March 17

Pacific 79, Pittsburgh 71

Wash. State 70, Chattanooga 54

West Virginia 63, Creighton 61

Syracuse 65, UCLA 59

Gonzaga 74, Winthrop 64

Texas Tech 70, UCLA 59

Friday, March 18

Louisville 68, La-Lafayette 62

Georgia Tech 80, George Washington 68

Second Round

Saturday, March 19

Wake Forest vs. West Virginia

Wash. State vs. Pacific

Gonzaga vs. Texas Tech

Seminals

Thursday, March 20

Louisville vs. Georgia Tech

Sunday, March 21

Washington/Pacific vs. Gonzaga/Texas Tech

Wake/W. Virginia vs. Gonzaga/Texas Tech

Championship

FINAL FOUR

Saturday, April 2

Chicago regional champion vs. Albuquerque regional champion

Monday, April 4

Championship

NCAA tournament: Albuquerque Regional

Louisville, Georgia Tech advance

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Rick Pitino warned his team not to expect an easy game against Louisiana-Lafayette in the first round of the NCAA tournament, and the Ragin' Cajuns proved just as troublesome as predicted.

"Even at halftime, we said, 'Look guys, you think you're going to blow this team out, you're mistaken. It's coming down to the last 2 minutes,'" Pitino said after his fourth-seeded Louisville Cardinals advanced in the Albuquerque Regional with a 68-62 victory Friday.

"We're very proud of this victory. When you're a 4-seed, and you play these teams today, you're going to play a terrific basketball game. We knew we weren't getting a breather."

Francisco Garcia went 7-for-7 from the foul line in the final 1:57, finishing with 27 points to help Louisville (30-4) reach the second round for the second time in three years under Pitino, who is 28-9 in the NCAA tournament.

Louisville will face fifth-seeded Georgia Tech in the second round Sunday. The Yellow Jackets beat George Washington 80-68.

Pitino insisted all along that Louisiana-Lafayette was not a typical No. 13 seed, going as far as to say the Ragin' Cajuns were the most difficult first-round opponent he's faced in 10 tournament appearances with Boston University, Kentucky and Louisville.

Turns out, he wasn't just paying lip service. There were eight lead changes during the second half before Louisville finally went ahead for good at 56-55 on two free throws by Larry O'Bannon with 3:43 to go. The Cardinals were led to one field goal the rest of the way —

Ortis Garcia's tip-in — but made eight more free throws to pull away.



Louisville coach Rick Pitino voices his displeasure during Friday night's 68-62 NCAA tournament victory over Louisiana-Lafayette.

No one excelled more than Garcia. He was fouled by Dwayne Mitchell on a three-point attempt with 1:57 to go, and made all three free throws for a 63-57 lead. He made two more with a minute left, then calmly sank his last two to push the Cardinals' advantage back to

five with 13.9 seconds remaining.

O'Bannon scored 13 points and Taquan Dean had 12 for Louisville.

Brian Hamilton led Louisiana-Lafayette (20-11) with 19 points before fouling out. Tiras Wade had 15 points and Chris Cameron added 11.

"It is a shame a team had to lose tonight," Louisiana-Lafayette coach Robert Lee said. "But our team played great, and that's all I can ask."

Georgia Tech 80, George Washington 68: Jarrett Jack, Will Bynum and B.J. Elder combined to score on six straight possessions in the second half as Georgia Tech (20-11) pulled away from pesky George Washington. Jack had 20 to lead the Yellow Jackets, who won no game by more than eight points on the way to last year's NCAA championship game. Bynum had 17 and Elder added 15.

Pops Mensah-Bonsu scored 15 to lead four players in double figures for 12th-seeded George Washington (22-8), which was doomed by dismal foul shooting. The Colonials missed 12 of 16 at the line, with a string of seven straight misses at one point.

The lead changed nine times and George Washington kept scrapping back whenever Tech threatened to make a run. When Bynum stole the ball and took it in for a layup, giving Georgia Tech a 57-54 lead with 11 minutes left, J.R. Pinnock answered back with a quick basket.

Then Elder hit a pullup jumper to spark a 12-0 run that sealed the outcome. The Yellow Jackets scored on six straight possessions, with Bynum, Elder and Pinnock.

Mensah-Bonsu finally stopped the run with a dunk, but George Washington didn't get close again.

NCAA tournament: Syracuse Regional

Connecticut lives to fight another day

The Associated Press

WORCESTER, Mass. — Charlie Villanueva scored 22 points and defending national champion Connecticut blew most of a 19-point lead before trimming Central Florida 77-71 on Friday in the first round of the NCAA tournament's Syracuse Regional.

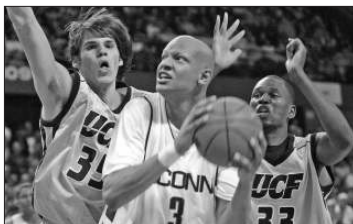
Connecticut (23-7) faces a second-round game Sunday against North Carolina State, but that could be unless the second-seeded Huskies snap out of a slump that has stymied them for the past three games.

Gary Johnson had career-high 29 points and seven three-pointers for Central Florida (24-9), which had won eight straight games. Kingsley Edwards' layup got Central Florida to 74-69, but only 23.2 seconds remained and the Golden Knights were forced to start fouling.

Florida 67, Ohio 62: At Nashville, Tenn., Florida blew a 20-point lead, but Anthony Robertson converted a three-point play with 1:33 seconds left to help the Gators advance.

Fourth-seeded Florida (24-7) hung on after blowing a 55-35 lead with 11:51 left. The Bobcats (21-11), who rallied from 10 down to win the Mid-American Conference title game, went on a 20-2 run, tying it 60-60 with 2:12 left. Green's sixth three-point.

Matt Walsh led the Gators with



Connecticut's Charlie Villanueva (3) draws two defenders during the defending champion Huskies' first-round victory over Central Florida.

18 points. Green finished with 24 points for the Bobcats.

Villanova 55, New Mexico 47: At Nashville, Tenn., Kyle Lowry made two sets of free throws in the final 1:38, then came up with a clutch shot as Villanova held off New Mexico.

Lowry finished with eight points, while Mike Nardi led the Wildcats (23-7) with 15 points.

After holding 12th-seeded New Mexico to just 11 points in the first half and leading by as many as 24, Villanova made just three field goals in the second half. The Lobos (26-7) made a furious rally, pulling within 52-47 with 29 seconds left.

Danny Granger led New Mexico with 15 points.

N.C. State 75, Charlotte 63: At Worcester, Mass., Julius Hodge had 19 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the 10th-seeded Wolfpack (20-13). Andrew Brackman had 16 points, Ilin Evtimov and Cameron Bennerman each had 12 and Engin Atsuz 10.

Brendan Palumbo, Eddie Basden and Curtis Withers each scored 15 for the seventh-seeded 49ers (21-8).

North Carolina 96, Oakland 68: At Charlotte, N.C., freshman Marvin Williams scored 20 points and Sean May added 19 in the

top-seeded Tar Heels' rout. Rashad McCants added 16 points for North Carolina (28-4), which shot 73 percent in the first half in building a 28-point lead.

Cortney Scott finished with 21 points to lead Oakland (13-19), which won only nine regular-season games but reached the NCAA tournament after an improbable run through the Mid-Continent Conference tournament and a defeat of Alabama A&M in Tuesday's play-in game.

Iowa State 64, Minnesota 53: At Charlotte, N.C., Iowa State held Minnesota to 33 percent shooting and Curtis Stinson led a balanced attack with 18 points. Rashawn Clark and Jared Homan added 14 points each for Iowa State (19-1).

Brent Lawson and Vincent Grier had 14 apiece for the eighth-seeded Gophers (21-11). Using some full-court pressure and almost exclusively going with a zone, the Cyclones forced 17 turnovers and kept the Gophers off balance throughout.

Wisconsin 57, Northern Iowa 52: At Oklahoma City, Kamron Taylor scored 16 points in a reserve role, including a jumper against free throws in the final minute, to help Wisconsin hold off Northern Iowa.

Sharif Chambliss hit a season-high five three-pointers for 15 points for Wisconsin (23-8).

Ben Jacobson led the Panthers (21-11) with 20 points.

NCAA tournament: Austin Regional



Duke's Shavlik Randolph (42) is trapped by Delaware State's Aaron Fleetwood (34) and Bruce Davis (11) during the top-seeded Blue Devils' 57-46 victory on Friday. Duke shot just 41 percent from the field.

Persistent Hornets pester mighty Duke

By KEITH PARSONS
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Mike Krzyzewski knows better than anyone just how precious games are in the NCAA tournament, so while he didn't dwell on his record-setting night, he paused to appreciate it.

"I'm glad we won, whatever number it was," Coach K said. "Each victory in the tournament is a treasured win, because it's a great tournament."

Shelden Williams had 14 points and 11 rebounds and top-seeded Duke held off 16th-seeded Delaware State 57-46 on Friday night in the Austin Regional, giving Krzyzewski his 65th career victory in the tournament.

In 21 NCAA tournaments, Krzyzewski's record is 65-17, tying Dean Smith's for most career victories.

"He doesn't like to bring those things up," Blue Devils guard J.J. Redick said. "I actually knew. I try to keep up with all his wins and about it. I'm happy. I knew that was going on, but he hasn't talked about it. I'm happy for him."

Duke (26-5) will face ninth-seeded Mississippi State in the second round Sunday.

The Blue Devils struggled throughout against the Hornets (19-13) despite having guard Sean Dockery back for the first time in seven games after he suffered a knee injury.

The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champion had won 15 of its previous 17 games, including three straight in the conference tournament. Delaware State befuddled Duke in the first half with a lineup of five guards, spreading the floor and letting the shot clock wind down before driving to the basket.

Delaware State led 14-12 after 10 minutes and a putback by Tracey Worley tied it at 23 with 5 minutes left in the first half.

"They won the regular season and their tournament with that system. They believe in it,"

Krzyzewski said. "They're quick, and they're good kids. They play together. It didn't seem to matter who shot the ball."

The Blue Devils took control with consecutive three-pointers by Daniel Ewing and Lee Melchioni, then opened the second half with an 11-2 run to pull away. The Hornets missed 15 straight shots at one point until Worley swished a three to make it 49-35. The margin came mostly from a 20 before Delaware State rallied. Jahsha Blunt made a jumper from beyond the arc, and after Worley added another basket, Troy Roundtree nailed a three-pointer to bring the Hornets within 55-43.

"I thought our kids put forth a great effort," Hornets coach Greg Jackson said. "There's no question we gave it our best shot. The kids showed a lot of patience and desire until the talent just took over."

Worley led Delaware State with 13 points, and Roundtree added 11.

"We feel like we gained some respect, but we still feel like we could have won the game," forward Terrance Hunter said. "No body gave us a chance."

For Krzyzewski, the outcome probably reminded him of a similar matchup in the 1986 tournament in which the top-seeded Blue Devils narrowly beat Mississippi Valley State 85-78. Johnny Dawkins, at the time an All-American guard for Duke, now sits beside Coach K on the bench as the associate head coach, and he told the players about that game earlier in the week.

"It tells you that what people think is usually wrong," Krzyzewski said. "It's what players think, it's what coaches think."

His team got the chance to live its own version. Backed by a small but enthusiastic group of fans, Delaware State came out to win the game.

After falling behind by nine early, the Hornets tied it at 12 on a layup by Worley, and the rest of the half was close.

Monarchs are a royal pain for victorious Michigan St.

The Associated Press

WORCESTER, Mass. — Tom Izzo leaned back in his chair, his arms spread out, his lips pursed. The usually volatile Michigan State coach didn't like what he was seeing.

The fifth-seeded Spartans couldn't pull away until the final minutes, when Shannon Brown made a spinning layup to start a three-point play that helped Michigan State beat Old Dominion 89-81 on Friday night in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

"I was disappointed in the first half, at the energy they brought," and Izzo, whose team trailed by five at halftime. "I'm not used to teams playing harder than us, and I thought they did."

Michigan State (23-6) managed to avoid a second consecutive first-round exit and gave Izzo, whose NCAA winning percentage is second only to Mike Krzyzewski's, his 20th NCAA tournament win. The Spartans will face 13th-seeded Vermont on Sunday.

Old Dominion (28-6) dominated the Colonial Athletic Association, but couldn't add to the upsets in the Worcester play. The Monarchs last advanced in the NCAA's when they beat Villanova in triple overtime in the opening round of the 1995 tournament.

"Coming into the game, we knew we all belonged," Old Dominion

guard Kiah Thomas said. "When I first got to ODU, we were going to win night in and night out. We really didn't know. Tonight every man, to a man, believed."

Brown scored 13 points, and Alan Anderson had 15 to lead five Spartans in double figures. Michigan State shot 57 percent (29-49-51) from the floor in the game despite making just three of 14 shots from three-point range.

Alex Loughton had 22 points, 11 rebounds and six assists for Old Dominion after playing much of the second half in foul trouble.

Drew Williamson, who did not have a turnover in 91 minutes at the NCAA tournament, had 74 on Friday.

Michigan State took a 7-68 lead before Valdas Vasylius hit a three-pointer with 4:31 left. Hunter hit two free throws to make it a 76-75 with 3:48 remaining before the teams traded misses. Brown got the ball under the basket, spun around and tossed it in, landing in a crouch and pumping his fists while the official whistled for a foul.

He hit the free throw to make it 79-75 with 2:50 left.

The Spartans extended it to six points before Loughton's basket with 1:09 left made it 81-77. With 54 seconds left, Paul Davis made a leaser in the lane just before the shot clock expired, giving the Spartans an 83-77 lead.

Michigan State went 6-for-6 from the line down the stretch.

Also on Friday:

Mississippi St. 93, Stanford 70: In Charlotte, N.C., Winsome Frazier made six three-pointers and scored 20 points to lead the ninth-seeded Bulldogs (23-10) to a second-round matchup with Duke. Lawrence Roberts, the 2004 SEC player of the year, led the Bulldogs with 23 points and 14 rebounds. But Frazier, who did not score more than 13 points in his past eight games, provided the spark to get past Stanford (18-13).

Frazier was seven of nine from the floor, including six of eight from three-point range. Shane Power added 14 points for Mississippi State, eliminated in the second round by Xavier last year as a No. 2 seed.

Chris Hernandez led Stanford with 17 points. Rob Little and Matt Haryasz had 14 each.

The Bulldogs made four three-pointers in the final 5:08 of the first half, including three straight to make it 40-28 at the half and take a 44-43 halftime lead.

Frazier made back-to-back threes to start the second half, including an off-balance fadeaway off one foot that made it 50-44.

Stanford struggled with its long-range shots, missing its first five three-pointers in the second half, allowing the Bulldogs to take a 63-53 lead with 11:21 to play.

NCAA tournament: Chicago Regional

Curry lifts Cowboys past SE La.

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — James On Curry hesitated for a split second, then jumped and let loose a three-point right in front of his coach's seat.

When the shot fell through, the 19-year-old freshman didn't keep his excitement inside. He pumped his fist as he walked toward midcourt, giving second-seeded Oklahoma State the boost it needed in its 63-50 victory over Southeastern Louisiana on Friday in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

The Cowboys will play Southern Illinois on Sunday.

The three-point put Oklahoma State ahead 54-47 with just under 4 minutes to play, and the Cowboys (25-6) held off the Lions (24-9) by making their next nine free throws.

Once the Lions pulled within three points, it was Curry's enthusiasm that put the Cowboys over the top. He sliced into the lane and fired from 19 feet, cutting to the basket for a layup.

Curry was only getting started. He added a free throw, then found McFarlin for another basket inside to put Oklahoma State ahead 49-44. Terrance Crawford emphatically jammed home a miss by John Lucas II, and Curry hit three three-pointers from the left wing in front of coach Eddie Sutton. Curry had 13 points.



James On Curry, a 19-year-old freshman, scored 13 points and made key plays late in a 63-50 victory Friday over SE Louisiana.

"He's just an outstanding player for his age," Sutton said. "He has no fear. He's not afraid to take that shot."

McFarlin scored 18 points to lead the Cowboys, who reached the Final Four last season.

The Lions, trying to become the fifth No. 15 seed to win a first-round game, were within 44-41 midway through the second half after an 11-3 run fueled by Ricky Woods' ability to get inside and cause havoc.

Woods sank a leaping flip against Crawford, finished a whirling drive down the lane and grabbed a deflected pass for a two-handed jam, then drove the lane and dishied off to Jonathan Walker to make it 42-39. Woods led the Lions with 16 points.

Also on Friday:

Southern Illinois 65, Saint Mary's 58: In Oklahoma City, Stetson Hairston broke a late tie with three free throws, then followed with a three-pointer, and Darren Brooks drove for the next two baskets to give the Salukis the push they needed to win.

Southern Illinois (27-7) advanced for the first time since 2002, when Hairston and Brooks were freshmen on a club that made the regional semifinals. The Salukis were knocked out by one shot in the opening round the past two years.

The Salukis went on an early 14-0 run fueled by nine turnovers, including a run of eight shots in the first half that fell behind by 12, the Gaels went on another run, thanks to reserve Brett Collins. He scored 11 in the next 13 points, tying it at 41-41.

Daniel Kickert led Saint Mary's with 16 points.

Bucknell: KU gets more than scare this time

BUCKNELL, FROM BACK PAGE

"Certainly it's the biggest win we've ever had," said coach Pat Flannery, a 1988 Bucknell grad. "Our kids battled their big kids all night long. Our kids made them work for everything they got."

The Jayhawks (23-7) had reached the second round every year since 1984 and in their last 21 tries. Although they had scares along the way, including one by Utah State in Oklahoma City two years ago, this was their first opening-round game being eliminated by UCLA in 1978.

"I think everybody's kind of in a moment of shock," said coach Flannery, in just his second season at Kansas. "These seniors have looked to this moment for a long time. To have it end so abruptly of course is devastating to those guys. I really don't have any words to try to comfort them right now."

Kansas seemed vulnerable because it had lost five of its last eight and No. 2 scorer Keith Langford was slowed by a lingering flu problem and a creaky left ankle. However, the Jayhawks weren't too concerned because four of those recent losses were to teams that won first-round NCAA games.

Bucknell opened its scoring with a four-point play by Betten-court and led by seven midway through the first half. Kansas closed the half with a 10-0 run to take the lead, but with Simien the only consistent threat (24 points, 10 rebounds), the Jayhawks weren't unable to take control. They didn't even make a field goal the last 8:44.

Still, Kansas had a chance to win in the final minute, when Langford hit two free throws with 25.4 seconds left for a 63-62 lead. Opting not to call a timeout, Bucknell went straight up the court and fed McNaughton in the lane. He threw a shot over Simien that accounted for the game's ninth and final lead change.

"It came off the backboard and rimmed in somehow — I don't even know how, but I don't care," said McNaughton, who was 6-for-7 and scored 14 points.

Langford had another attempt, but missed short. Bucknell's John Griffin got the rebound and was fouled, but missed the front end of a one-and-one and Simien grabbed it with 2.4 seconds left.

After a timeout, Kansas tried the Grant Hill-to-Christian Laettner play Duke used to beat Kentucky in the 1992 NAAs. Michael Lee's heave to Simien went perfectly and he spun for a good look at the basket. But his shot hit the rim and bounced away.

"It went over my right shoulder, which is a very comfortable move for me," Simien said.

"It felt good on the release, but I didn't hit it."

Bucknell knew it could hang with the big boys after winning at Pittsburgh when the Panthers were undefeated and ranked No. 7. Bison also beat NCAA team Niagara and won at St. Joseph's.



Bucknell's Chris McNaughton releases the game-winning hook shot over Kansas' Wayne Simien.

Vermont: Fifth-seeded Spartans next as upstart Catamounts look ahead

VERMONT, FROM BACK PAGE

When Gerry McNamara missed a desperation three from the top of the key in the final seconds, the Cats had their first NCAA tournament victory. They swarmed together and hugged in celebration, jumping up and down as Brennan raised his right arm in a triumphant salute to the team's legion of fans shouting in the stands.

"People are going to say we shocked the world, but to this group of guys, we knew we had a shot to win this game," reserve Alex Jensen said as the players doused each other with water in the jubilant locker room. "Everybody was sending Syracuse to the Final Four, but we knew we could win this game if we played the way we did."

Nilla finished with a career-high 20 points, Sorrentine

had 17, and Taylor Coppenrath added 16 for Vermont. The Catamounts will face fifth-seeded Michigan State in the second round Sunday. The Spartans beat Old Dominion 89-81.

Fourth-seeded Syracuse (27-7) had hopes of making the Final Four for the second time in three years.

"It's going to keep getting better and better," Vermont center Martin Klimes said. "We did the first step. We're going to get some rest right now and prepare for the next game. It's not over."

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim left the court with his head down, and the players followed.

"They just outplayed us," said forward Terrence Roberts, who had seven points and seven rebounds. "They hit some clutch shots down the stretch. That's what hurt us."

Brennan paced back and forth

in front of the bench, thrusting his fist in the air each time the Catamounts took the lead, and the Vermont players were told by the officials several times to stay on the bench.

Syracuse never got on track, committing a season-high 24 turnovers. Hakim Warrick ended the final game of his impressive career with 21 points and 12 rebounds, but he also committed 10 turnovers. McNamara had 11 points but was 1-for-7 on three-pointers and the most distraught of the Orange.

"Sometimes, you just don't have it," McNamara said.

Vermont played a deliberate game, slowing the pace and never allowing the Orange to make a run. McNamara struggled to find open looks and the Catamounts dominated the glass early to stay close.

There were 11 ties and eight lead changes.

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Newman wins fifth straight pole at Atlanta

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. — Ryan Newman extended his record for consecutive poles at Atlanta Motor Speedway, winning his fifth in a row with a dominating run Friday night.

Newman, who's won every pole at Atlanta since the 2003 spring race, turned a lap at 194.690 mph on the 1.54-mile trioval.

Newman couldn't help but no-

tice the here-we-go-again reaction when he got to the infield media center.

"I used to come in here as a rookie and everyone would be like, 'What's a rookie doing winning the pole,'" Newman quipped.

"Now it's like it's no big deal."

Bobby Hamilton Jr. turned in the best qualifying run of his career, putting up the second-fastest speed (193.785) to earn a front-row spot alongside New-

man for Sunday's Golden Corral 500.

"It's a good place to start," Hamilton said. "We'll start from there and chip away at it on Sunday."

Newman already had eclipsed the record for most consecutive poles at Atlanta, beating Buddy Baker's record of three in a row in 1979-80.

Newman has 29 poles in his career, claiming the top spot at all but nine of the 22 Nextel Cup ven-

ues. He hasn't had as much success on race day, winning 11 times.

Rookie Kyle Busch didn't even make it around for his qualifying attempt on a night when temperatures dipped into the upper 40s. He lost control in Turn 3 as he was bringing his car up to speed, slamming backward into the outside wall.

Busch was able to walk away, but he'll start 42nd in the 43-car field on Sunday.

Golden Corral 500 lineup

NASCAR Nextel Cup
After Friday qualifying race Sunday
At Atlanta Motor Speedway
Hampton, Ga.
Lap length: 1.54 miles
(Car number in parentheses)

1. (12) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 194.690 mph
2. (32) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 193.785
3. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 193.785
4. (99) Carl Edwards, Ford, 192.976
5. (9) Casey Mears, Dodge, 192.884
6. (16) Greg Biffle, Ford, 191.252
7. (14) Jeff Green, Dodge, 191.192
8. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 191.192
9. (10) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 191.067
10. (11) Jason Leffler, Chevrolet, 190.935
11. (44) Elliott Sadler, Ford, 190.883
12. (6) Mark Martin, Ford, 190.791
13. (42) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 190.699
14. (89) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 190.614
15. (41) Casey Mears, Dodge, 190.450
16. (01) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 190.150
17. (10) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 188.136
18. (91) Bill Elliott, Dodge, 188.006
19. (88) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 188.935
20. (77) Travis Kvapil, Dodge, 188.740
21. (08) Shane Hmiel, Chevrolet, 188.740
22. (50) Jimmy Spencer, Dodge, 188.662
23. (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 189.513
24. (97) Kurt Busch, Ford, 189.380
25. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 189.234
26. (7) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 189.221
27. (07) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 188.786
28. (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 188.764
29. (17) Kevin Lepage, Dodge, 188.760
30. (4) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 188.591
31. (21) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 188.424
32. (21) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 188.092
33. (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 188.053
34. (88) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 187.229
35. (8) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 187.272
36. (28) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 186.944
37. (15) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 186.865
38. (31) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 186.742
39. (48) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 186.128
40. (43) Jeff Green, Dodge, owner points
41. (45) Kyle Petty, Dodge, owner points
42. (5) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, owner points
43. (75) Mike Garvey, Dodge, 187.843
44. (34) Randy LaJoie, Chevrolet, 186.303
45. (14) John Andretti, Ford, 187.778
46. (32) Stanton Barrett Jr., Chevrolet, 186.269
47. (00) Carl Long, Chevrolet, 184.714
48. (27) Kirk Shelmerdine, Ford, 184.033
49. (60) Hermie Sadler, Ford, 183.856
50. (89) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, 183.443

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CS-Fullerton too much for Frisco in NIT

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Bobby Brown had 25 points and seven rebounds to help Cal State-Fullerton beat San Francisco 85-69 on Friday night in the first round of the NIT.

After shooting only 33.3 percent from the floor in the first half, the Titans (21-10) hit 12 of their first 14 attempts in the second and scored 57 points in the final 20 minutes to set up a second-round game at Georgetown.

Ralphie Holmes added 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Titans, who won for the 13th time in 16 games.

John Cox scored 17 points to finish eighth on San Francisco's career scoring list with 1,540 points. Cox, who scored 27 in the Dons' opening-round victory over Denver on Wednesday night, missed nine of his first 10 shots and finished 6-for-22.

San Francisco (17-14) made only 35.1 percent of its shots from the floor and was outrebounded 25-12 in the second half.

SPORTS



Nelson resigns as coach of Mavericks,
turns team over to assistant Johnson,
Page 37

Bracket busters

Vermont
pulls off
OT win vs.
Syracuse

BY JOHN KEKIS
The Associated Press

WORCESTER, Mass. — Tom Brennan would have retired a happy man regardless. But his 264th victory at Vermont made his impending departure a whole lot sweeter.

The wildly popular coach cried openly Friday night after his 13th-seeded Catamounts earned their biggest victory in school history. German Mopa Njila and T.J. Sorrentine hit consecutive three-pointers in a 48-second span of overtime, and Vermont upset Big East champion Syracuse 60-57 in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

"When that went in, I thought I might burst," Brennan said of Sorrentine's long three from the top of the key. "I thought you might find me in pieces around the arena because there's no drug, nothing in the world that is that feeling. There's nothing that can make you feel like that except competition and going through a lot with your guys, especially ones you love."

SEE VERMONT ON PAGE 42



Vermont players celebrate after their 60-57 overtime victory over Syracuse in the first round of the NCAA tournament Friday night in Worcester, Mass. It was Vermont's first victory in the tournament in three tries.

Bucknell beats Kansas
when Simien misses

BY JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Kansas Jayhawks flirted with first-round elimination several times in the last 15 NCAA tournaments, but always avoided it. They weren't able to Friday night against a No. 14 seed with zero NCAA tournament victories in its 110-year history, five scholarship players and a borrowed band.

That would be the Bucknell Bison, who beat the third-seeded Jayhawks 64-63 and shook up the Syracuse Regional when Chris McNaughton banked in a hook shot over Wayne Simien with 10.5 seconds left, and Simien missed an open 15-foot jumper at the buzzer.

"Unbelievable," said guard

Kevin Bettencourt, who led Bucknell with 19 points, including five three-pointers.

As crushing as the loss is for preseason No. 1 Kansas, it's even more stunning for the winners. They've been playing since 1896, the first season of Division I play, and were 0-for-2 in the NCAA, losing their previous tries by 22 and 23 points in the late 1980s.

No team from their conference, the Patriot League, had ever won an NCAA tournament game in 13 tries.

Bucknell (23-9) is the first No. 14 seed to win since Weber State beat North Carolina in 1999. The Bison will try doing it again Sunday against sixth-seeded Wisconsin (23-8), which beat Northern Iowa 57-52 earlier Friday.

SEE BUCKNELL ON PAGE 42



Bucknell's Donald Brown celebrates the Bison's 64-63 victory over Kansas in the first round of the NCAA tournament in Oklahoma City on Friday. Bucknell became the first Patriot League team to win in the tournament.



Louisville gets
past tough
La.-Lafayette

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Duke's Krzyzewski
ties Dean Smith
with 65th victory

Page 41



12-time All-Star
Alomar announces
retirement

Page 35



DODDS-Europe
spring seasons
begin in soccer,
softball, tennis

Pages 38-39



Atlantic-leading
Celtics win
sixth straight

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